明日の王様

Ashita No Ousama

谷地恵美子
by Yachi Emiko

集英社文庫

明日の王妹

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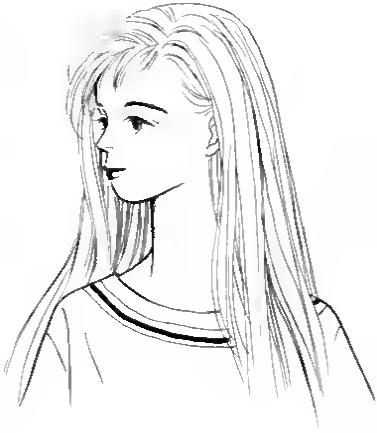
明日の王様
4
ASHITA NO OUSAMA
UNIT 24
谷地恵美子



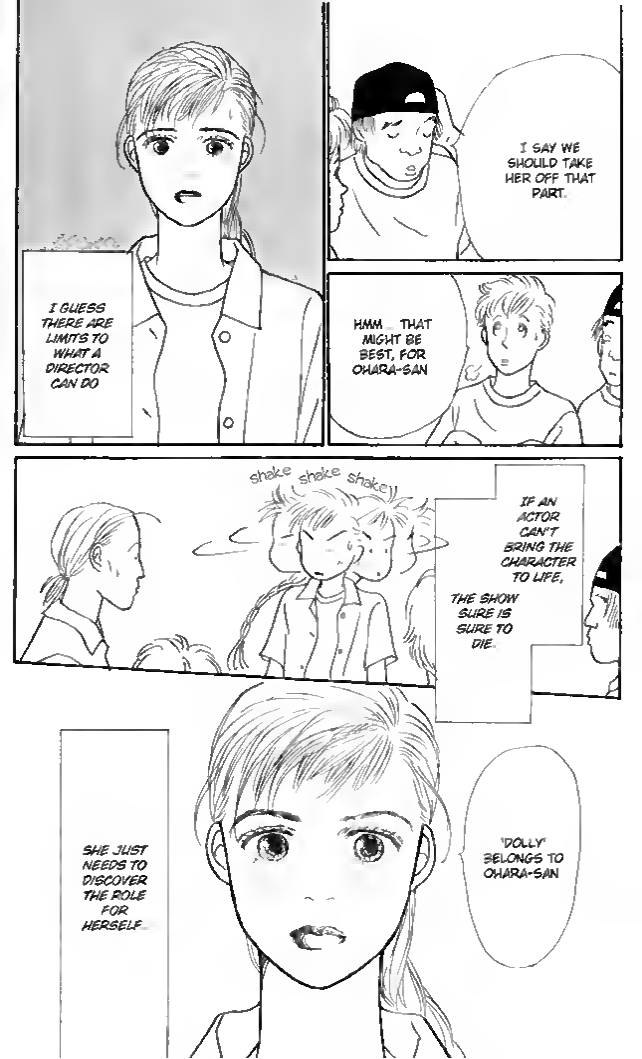
I ALREADY DID MY BEST!
TELL ME EXACTY WHAT YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED WITH!
ALL YOU DID WAS TO IMITATE ICHII TOUYA'S 'DOLLY'.
IT'S JUST AN IMITATION.
BUT IT'S NOT OHARA-SAN'S 'DOLLY'

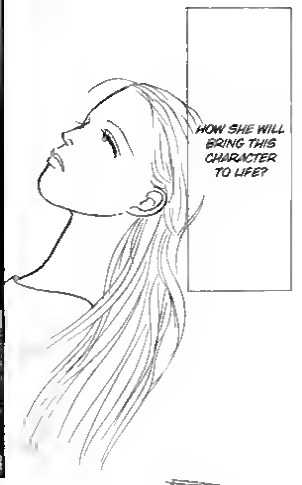
SIGH
THE STAGE PLAY 'HANA', THAT OPENED THE RUN FOR OUR MAIN PRODUCTION FOR ONE DAY ONLY, WILL BE BROUGHT BACK

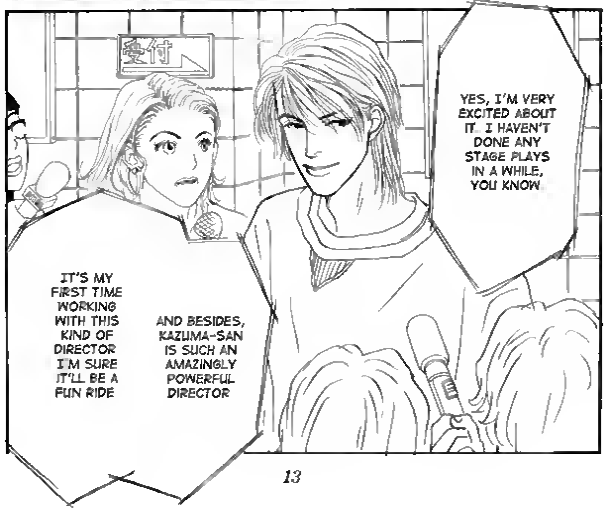
NOT ONLY COULD SHE NOT PULL HERSELF
AWAY FROM THAT STAGE, THAT ROLE.
I WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN THE EXCITEMENT
SHE EVEN...
AH... I JUST DID AN AWFUL THING!
THAT I FORGOT HOW DEEPLY THE IMPRESSION OF THE PLAY WAS EMBEDDED INTO OHARA-SAN'S HEART.

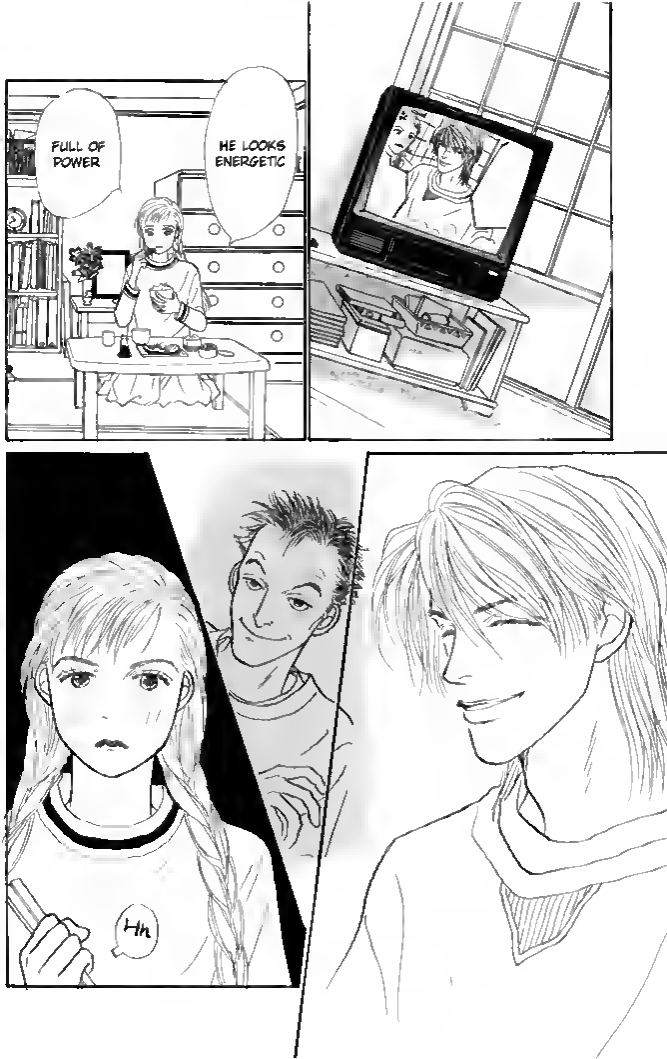
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!
AH, I'M SO STUPID. STUPID, STUPID!
rise
WHERE'S OHARA-SAN?
SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING HOME.
JUST NOW
RUN
RUN
RUN

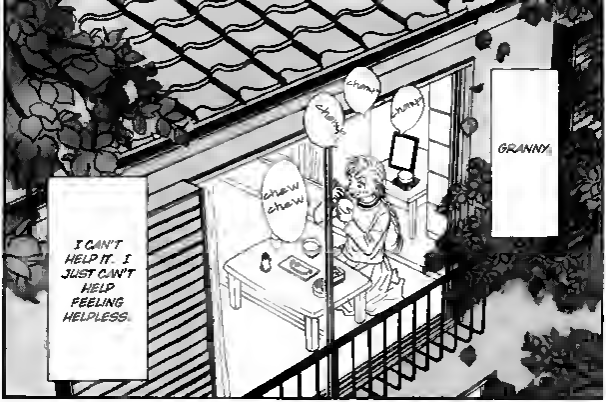
I THINK OHARA-SAN UNDERSTANDS WHAT YUU-CHAN WANTED TO SAY.
SHE'S TOTALLY UPSET ABOUT HERSELF TOO.
...

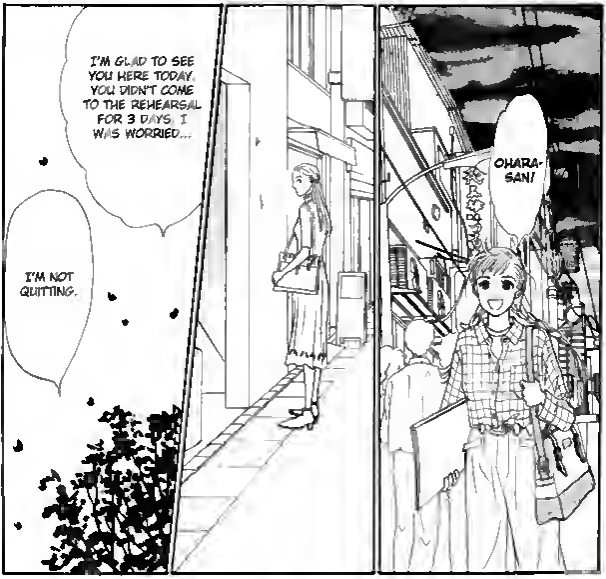

I GUESS THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT A DIRECTOR CAN DO
I SAY WE SHOULD TAKE HER OFF THAT PART.
HMM... THAT MIGHT BE BEST, FOR OHARA-SAN
shake shake shake!!
IF AN ACTOR CAN'T BRING THE CHARACTER TO LIFE, THE SHOW SURE IS SURE TO DIE.
SHE JUST NEEDS TO DISCOVER THE ROLE FOR HERSELF.
"DOLLY" BELONGS TO OHARA-SAN

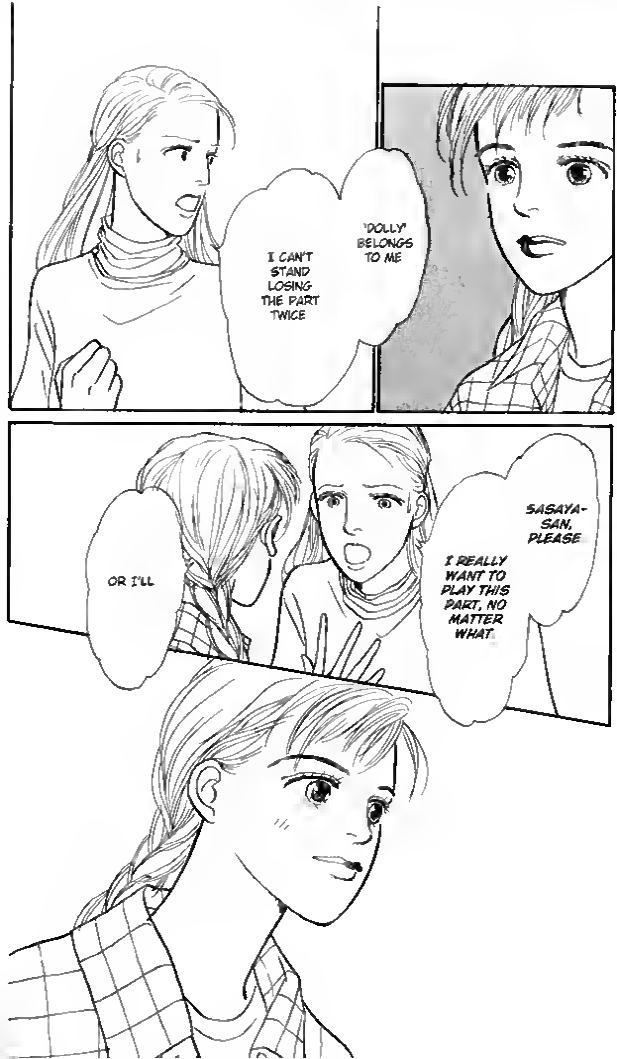

HOW SHE WILL BRING THIS CHARACTER TO LIFE?


受付
YES, I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT IT. I HAVEN'T DONE ANY STAGE PLAYS IN A WHILE, YOU KNOW
IT'S MY FIRST TIME WORKING WITH THIS KIND OF DIRECTOR I'M SURE IT'LL BE A FUN RIDE
AND BESIDES, KAZUMA-SAN IS SUCH AN AMAZINGLY POWERFUL DIRECTOR

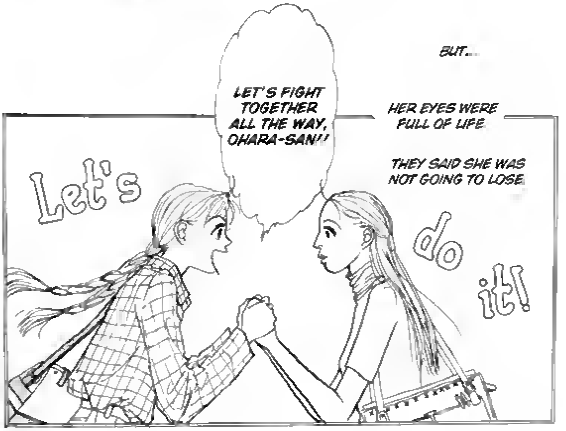

FULL OF POWER
HE LOOKS ENERGETIC
Hm


I CAN'T HELP IT. I JUST CAN'T HELP FEELING HELPLESS.
chew chew
chewy
chewy
chewy
GRANNY.


I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE TODAY. YOU DIDN'T COME TO THE REHEARSAL FOR 3 DAYS. I WAS WORRIED...
I'M NOT QUITTING.
OHARA-SAN!

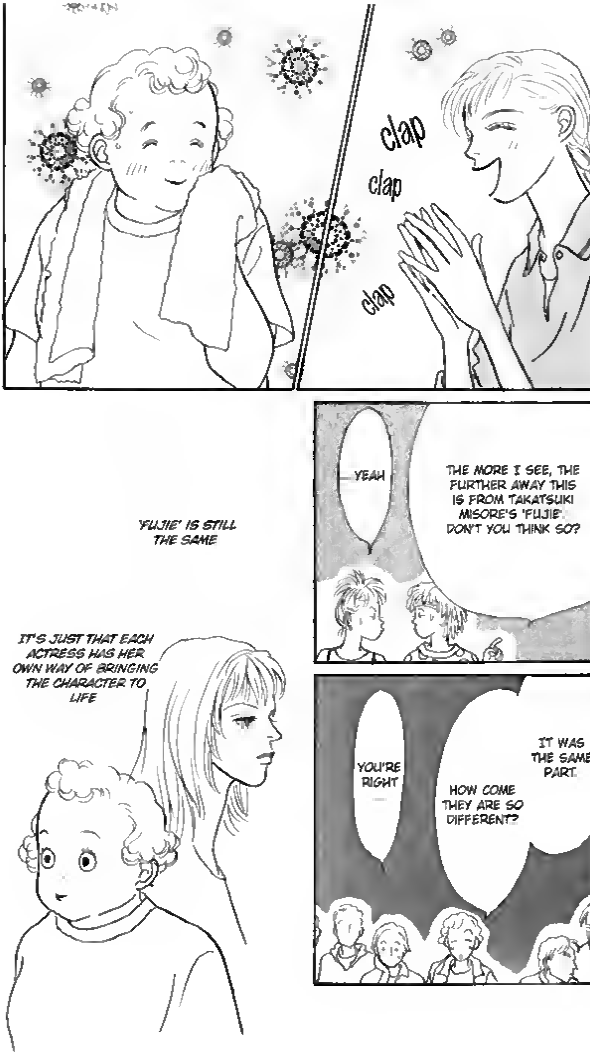

I CAN'T STAND LOSING THE PART TWICE
"DOLLY" BELONGS TO ME
OR I'LL
I REALLY WANT TO PLAY THIS PART, NO MATTER WHAT
SASAYA-SAN, PLEASE

I WOULD HAVE LOST HOPE IF OHARA-SAN'S DETERMINATION
CAME ONLY FROM HER UNWILLINGNESS TO LET GO OF THE CHARACTER
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
ARE YOU GOING TO BUILD A PLAY OUT OF SYMPATHY?


BUT...
LET'S FIGHT TOGETHER ALL THE WAY, OHARA-SAN!!
HER EYES WERE FULL OF LIFE.
THEY SAID SHE WAS NOT GOING TO LOSE.
Let's
do
it!

SPOOKY MAN, THIS KAZUMA RIN
I'LL FIGHT ALONG SIDE OHARA-SAN AS WELL
BEFORE THE ACTORS KNOW IT, THEY'RE ALREADY BETTER THAN THEY BELIEVED THEY WOULD EVER BE.

IT'S TURNED INTO A STRANGE REHEARSAL
ONE OF THE PROTAGONISTS IS NOT HERE, SO WE NEED TO USE A STAND-IN.
Ha ha ha
Giggle giggle
Chirp
KYAA
Waha waaa
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB


clap
clap
clap
YEAH
THE MORE I SEE, THE FURTHER AWAY THIS IS FROM TAKATSUKI MISORE'S 'FUJIE' DON'T YOU THINK SO?
'FUJIE' IS STILL THE SAME
IT'S JUST THAT EACH ACTRESS HAS HER OWN WAY OF BRINGING THE CHARACTER TO LIFE
YOU'RE RIGHT
HOW COME THEY ARE SO DIFFERENT?
IT WAS THE SAME PART.

パソコン大好きっ！

なーとん

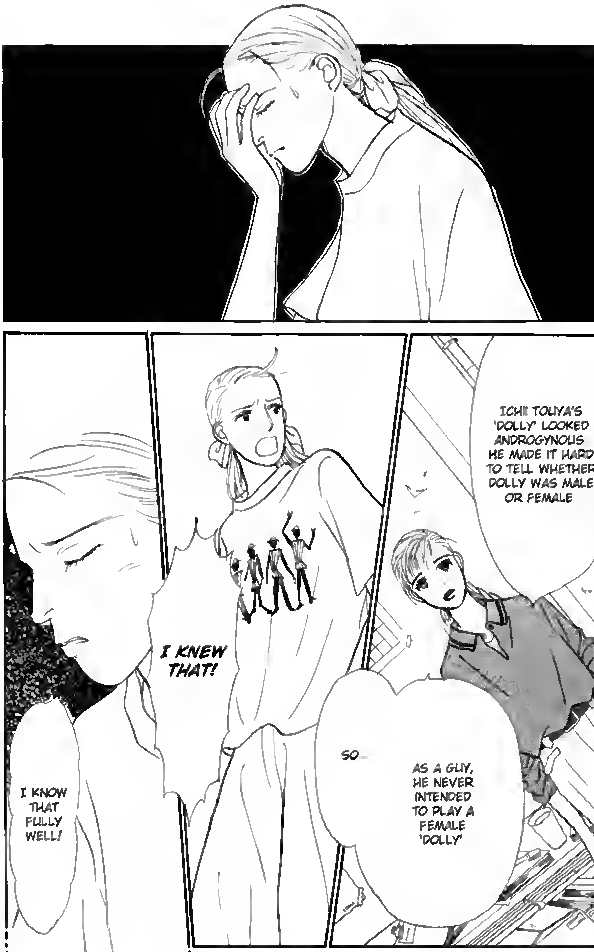
今ノートン先生に診断してもらっているところ。

さてうちのマック君はいくつ病をわずらっているか！

なーんちって友だちにやってもらってるのでおいらはまったくわからーん。

ちんぷんかんぷん

※コメントはヤングユー掲載時のものです

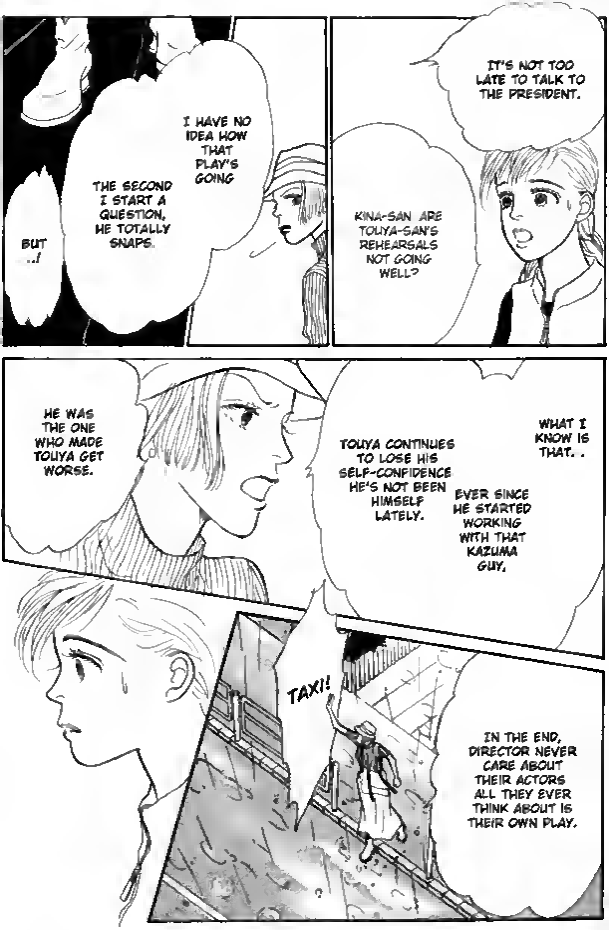

ICHI! TOLIYA'S 'DOLLY' LOOKED ANDROGYNOUS HE MADE IT HARD TO TELL WHETHER DOLLY WAS MALE OR FEMALE
I KNEW THAT!
SO...
AS A GUY, HE NEVER INTENDED TO PLAY A FEMALE 'DOLLY'
I KNOW THAT FULLY WELL!

GRANNY
COULD IT BE THAT I WAS TOO EARNEST?
JUST BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE TO THAT GUY...

SCREECH
AH

UMM.. I JUST CAME TO DELIVER THE REPORT ON MY IMPRESSION OF THE PLAY AND GOT STUCK HERE BECAUSE OF THE RAIN
YOU AGAIN!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!!
GO BACK. TOLYA IS TIRED. HE DOESN'T HAVE THE TIME TO INDULGE YOU WITH CHIT-CHAT.
REPORT? RIDICULOUS.
YOU'D BETTER GO BACK NOW.
Stop being silly
HUH?
AND YOU CAN STOP BEING MY CHAPERONE
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE

YOU SHOULD GO.
TOUYA!
HE SHOULD HAVE QUIT THAT THING
HE SEEMED ENERGETIC AND EXCITED ON TV
HE DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD
I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF A RISING STAR THAT DIRECTOR MIGHT BE... TO BE SO UNREASONABLE...


BUT ..!
THE SECOND I START A QUESTION, HE TOTALLY SNAPS.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THAT PLAY'S GOING
KINA-SAN ARE TOUYA-SAN'S REHEARSALS NOT GOING WELL?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO MADE TOUYA GET WORSE.
TOUYA CONTINUES TO LOSE HIS SELF-CONFIDENCE HE'S NOT BEEN HIMSELF LATELY.
EVER SINCE HE STARTED WORKING WITH THAT KAZUMA GUY,
WHAT I KNOW IS THAT. .
TAXI!
IN THE END, DIRECTOR NEVER CARE ABOUT THEIR ACTORS ALL THEY EVER THINK ABOUT IS THEIR OWN PLAY.

ROOM

OHARA-SAN IS CONFUSED BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF TOLYA-SAN'S 'DOLLY'. SHE CAN'T ACT THE WAY SHE WANTS TO.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO LISTEN TO SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEMS AT THE MOMENT. GO AWAY!
HOW DOES THAT CONCERN ME?
THAT'S LOUD. WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?
ESOLC
BAM!!
AH..!

HA HA IT'S MY FAULT FOR BEING TOO PERSISTENT
I'm so sorry
I'M OKAY
But my face stings
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
sigh
RISE
I KNEW IT!
I MADE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN
Ahh!

BUT.
BUT...
WITH OHARA-SAN WHO WAS DETERMINED AND WHO ALWAYS ENCOURAGED HER KOUHAI...
GAH.
YOU STUPID, PEA-BRAINED GIRL
I HAVE MY IDEAS TOO.
I HAVE MY IDEAS!

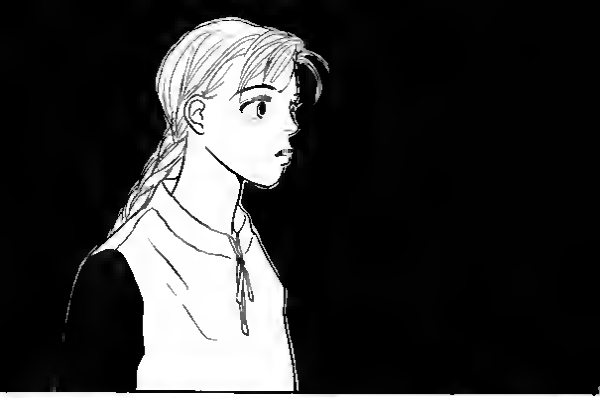
I MAY NOT BE PERFECT.
I ALWAYS MAKE MISTAKES AND EVEN LOSE CONFIDENCE AT TIMES.
AND SOMETIMES I EVEN FEEL SCARED AND WANT TO RUN.
Gosh!
What is she doing here?
BUT
THE DIRECTOR IS THE ONE BEHIND THE PLAY'S SUCCESS.
SO
I ALWAYS TELL MYSELF.
THAT I'M THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON.

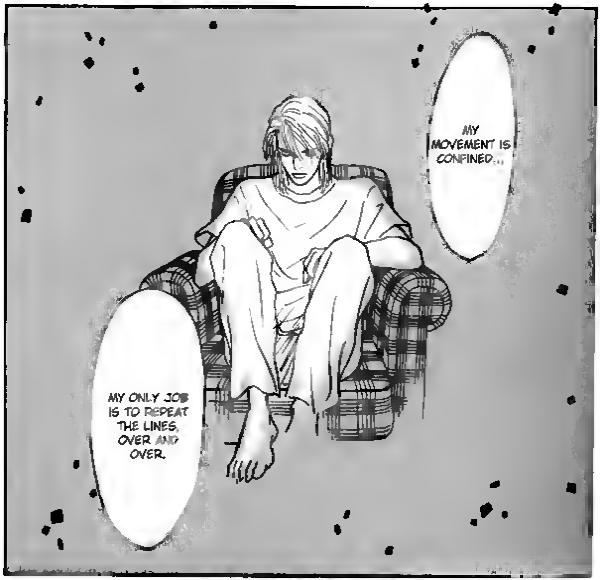
I'M THE KING!
YES, I'M THE GREATEST!
THE DIRECTOR IS THE KING.
I'm sure of it.
humph!

ORDERING US TO DO THIS AND THAT YOU THINK YOU'RE THE GREATEST. THINK ABOUT IT
AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE ONES ON THE STAGE ARE THE ACTORS. ONLY WE HAVE A PLACE UP THERE, ON STAGE.
WHAT KING?
WITHOUT AN ACTOR, THE DIRECTOR CAN'T DO HIS JOB.
ARE YOU NUTS?
YEAH
THAT'S GREAT, TOUYA-SAN.

THOSE EYES ARE GOOD.
IT'S TRUE THAT THE ONES ON STAGE ARE THE ACTORS
BUT THE ONE WHO CAN BRING THE MOST OUT OF THEIR TALENT IS THE DIRECTOR.
BRING OUT?
HAH! YOU'RE SO FULL OF YOURSELF.
HA HA HA
BECAUSE I'M THE GREATEST.
?

ONLY I
ON KAZUMA RIN'S STAGE,
EVERY ACTOR
HAS TO MOVE AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE TO THE POINT THAT HE BARELY HAS THE TIME TO BREATHE.
ONLY I AM NOT ALLOWED TO MOVE AN INCH,
FROM BEGINNING TO END.




MY MOVEMENT IS CONFINED...
MY ONLY JOB IS TO REPEAT THE LINES, OVER AND OVER.

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十也（とうや）の演じた"ドリィ"の印象が余りに強烈だったため、
次にその役を演じることになった大原は苦悩する。
このままで舞台「HANA」の再演は成功するのか…？
そんな折、有のもとへ数馬 倫と競作で／
TVドラマの脚本依頼が…！

連載エッセイ「みーはーE・B・I」収録

YU HAS FOUND
THE STAGE FULL OF DREAMS
AND HAPPINESS
FASCINATED BY MAGIC OF THE DRAMA,
SHE STRUGGLES TO BE A STAGE DIRECTOR
AND SCRIPTWRITER.
THIS IS HER DRAMA.
PRESENTED BY EMIKO-YACHI

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ASHITA NO OUSAMA
UNIT 25

WHILE EVERYONE IS RUNNING AROUND LIKE THEY'RE CRAZY.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO MUST NOT MOVE.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS REPEAT MY LINES OVER AND OVER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD THAT IS?

I'VE HEARD THE RUMOURS ABOUT KAZUMA RIN'S PRODUCTIONS AND BRACED MYSELF.
IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOURSELF IN YOUR BEST CONDITION, YOU'RE GOING TO BREAK DOWN JUST BY BEING AT REHEARSALS. YOUR BODY WILL ACHE ALL OVER TO THE POINT THAT YOU CAN'T MOVE.
AND WHAT IS THIS?
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS ORDERED NOT TO MOVE
WHILE THE OTHER ACTORS SCRAMBLE ALL OVER
RUNNING AND ROLLING UNTIL THEY'RE ALMOST SCREAMING.

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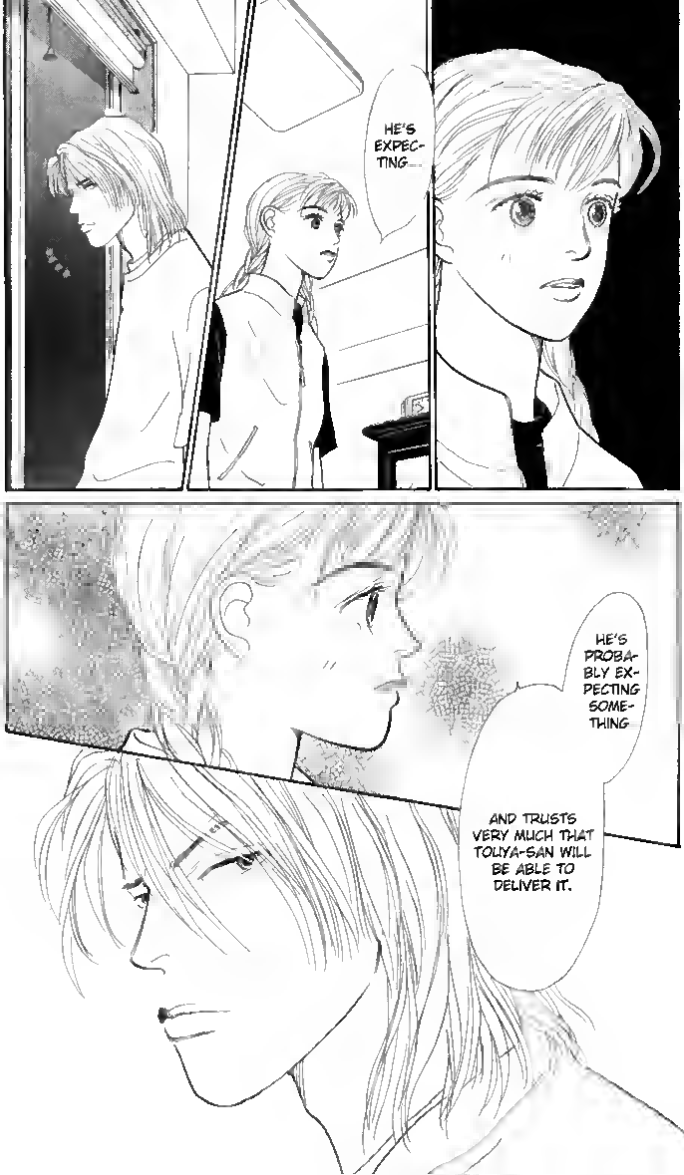
HE'S EXPECTING...
HE'S PROBABLY EXPECTING SOMETHING
AND TRUSTS VERY MUCH THAT TOLIYA-SAN WILL BE ABLE TO DELIVER IT.

TO CHALLENGE YOU WITH SOMETHING THAT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'VE DONE BEFORE IS LIKE A GREAT ADVENTURE.
IT TAKES A LOT OF GUTS TO DO THAT.
IF HE... TO FULLY RESPOND TO A DIRECTOR'S EXPECTATIONS,
DOESN'T TRUST THAT THE ACTOR 'CAN DO IT, THERE WON'T BE ANY SUCCESS.

I CAN'T JOIN THE REHEARSAL WITH EVERY-ONE IN THIS STATE
PLEASE LET ME PRACTICE ALONE UNTIL I CAN GRASP MY 'DOLLY'
I... I SEE.
DOESN'T TRUST.
WHAT ABOUT ME?

DID I REALLY TRUST OHARA-SAN?
LETTING HER PRACTICE ON HER OWN EVERYDAY.
DID I REALLY DO THAT BECAUSE I TRUST HER?
NO...
THAT'S NOT MY WAY OF DOING THINGS.
I'M GOING BACK
SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE
H-HEY ...

TOUYA-SAN
SOMEONE EXPECTS SOMETHING FROM US BECAUSE THEY TRUST US THAT'S WHY WE CAN BRING OUT OUR OWN POWER, RIGHT?
I'LL DO MY BEST TOO I WILL DEFINITELY NOT LOSE TO KAZUMA RIN
BESIDES,
I ALSO THINK THAT THE ACTOR ICHI TOUYA WHO LIT THE FIRE OF ADVENTURE IN KAZUMA RIN'S HEART IS NOT AN ORDINARY PERSON EITHER.
SLAM
WHAT WAS THAT?
I HAVEN'T A SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT SHE WAS ON ABOUT
SHE ASKED AND ANSWERED HER OWN QUESTION
Again,
What exactly did she come here for?

I SAID WAIT.
Wait!
Sasaya-san!?

ラーメン大好きっ！
近くに「吾ん食」とゆーラーメン屋さんがあるシュウ場になると一度は出前をたのむのだった
その時
あ、さーびすン家のまん中の家どすえ
これでわかってくれるのだった
一度(そびき)大の大わらまで出前といっしょにもってきてくれた
うらやましいなラーメン屋さん
I TOLD YOU I'M NOT READY TO PRACTICE TOGETHER WITH EVERYBODY. YOU AGREED WITH ME BEFORE
IT WAS MY FAULT
IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO PRACTICE CLUMSILY BY YOURSELF.
CLUMSILY...?
THAT'S RUDE, I CAN'T PLAY AN IMPERFECT 'DOLLY' IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, YOU KNOW.
TODAY, YOU JUST WATCH EVERYONE REHEARSING. THAT'LL BE ENOUGH
!
WHAT ABOUT MY OWN REHEARSAL? WE'RE WASTING TIME—.
YOU'VE ALREADY LEARNT THE SCRIPT BY HEART.
IT'S GOING TO BE FINE.

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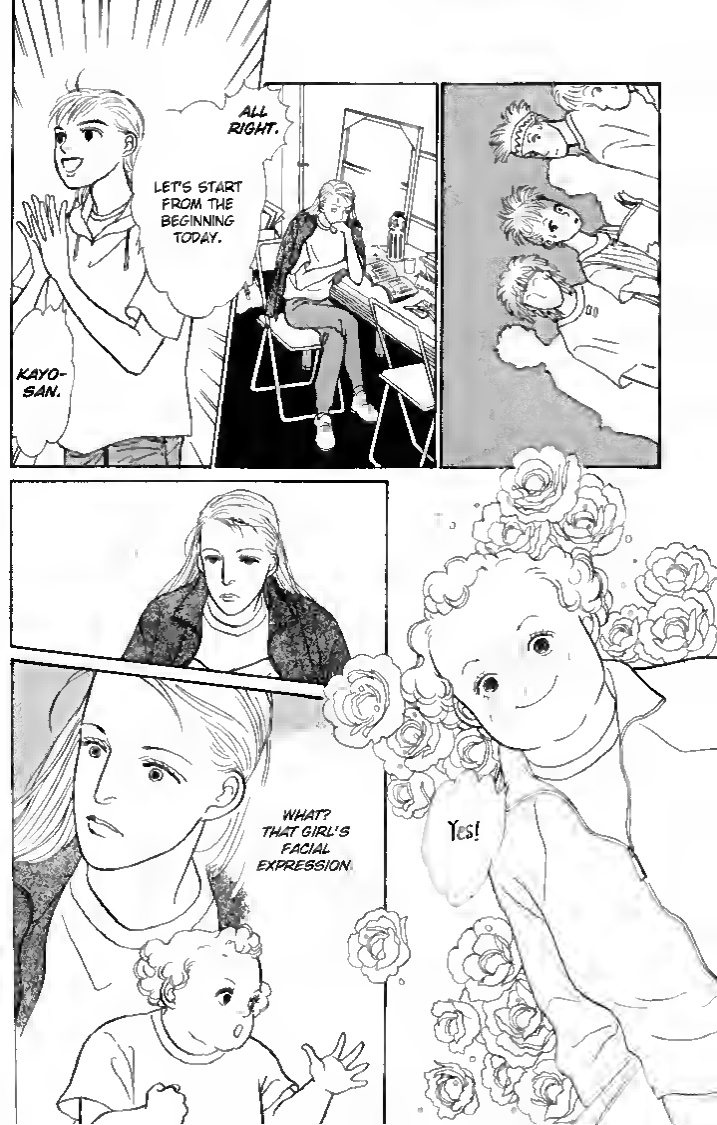
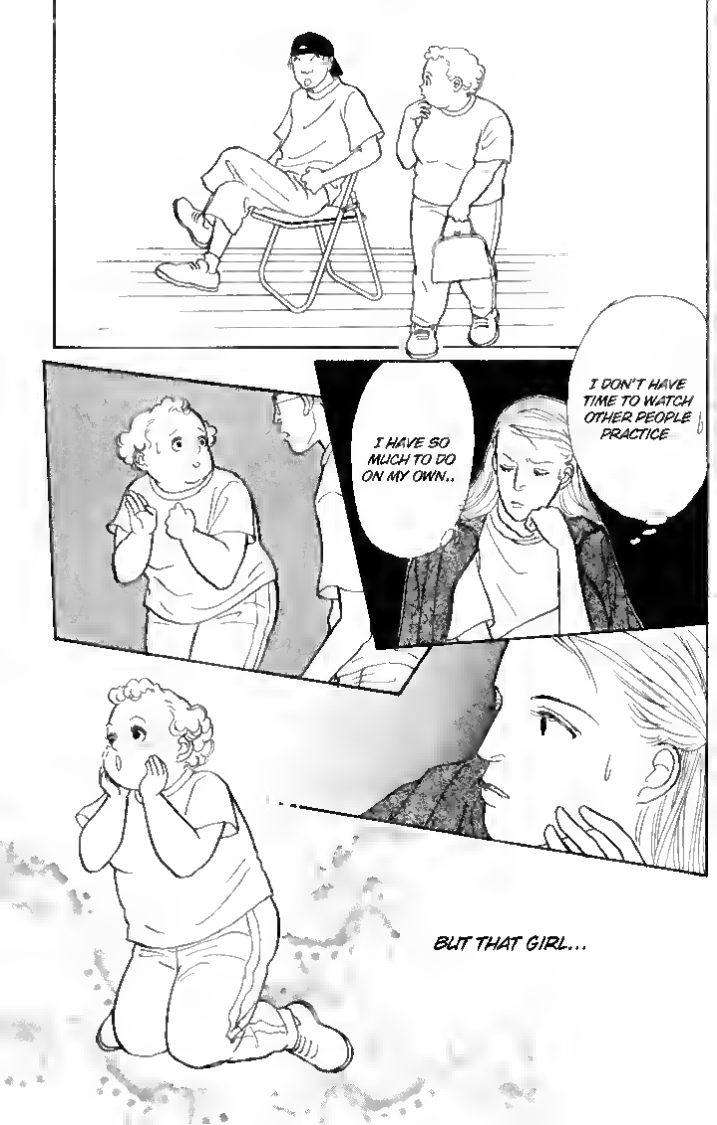
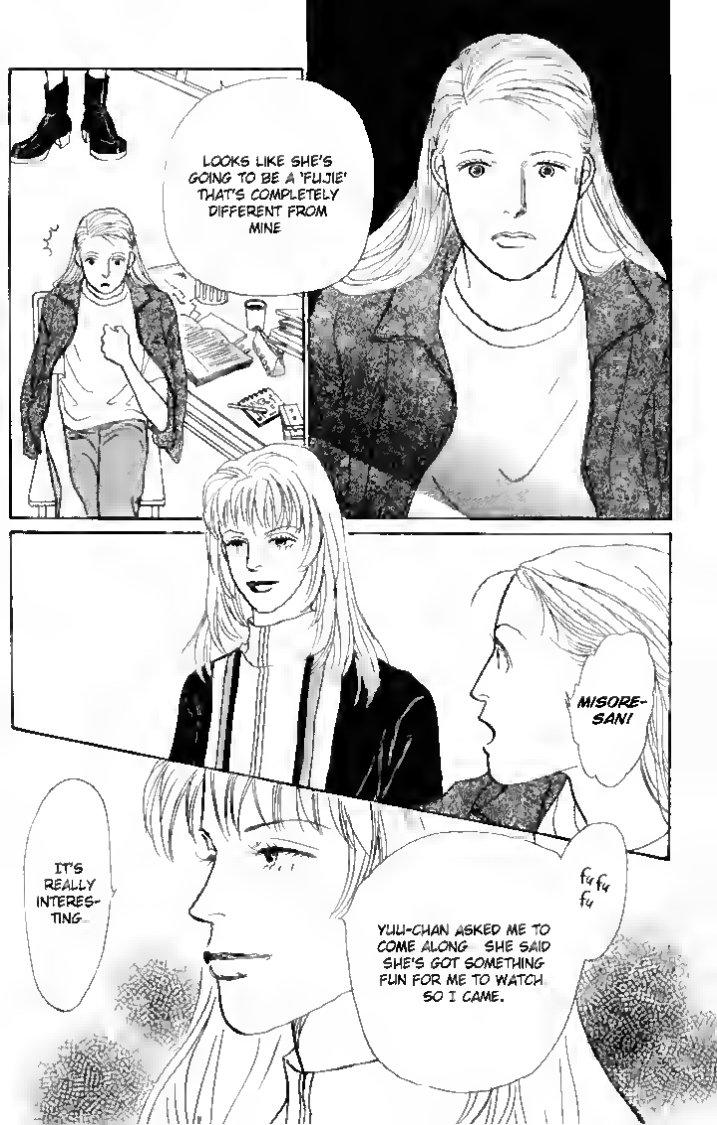
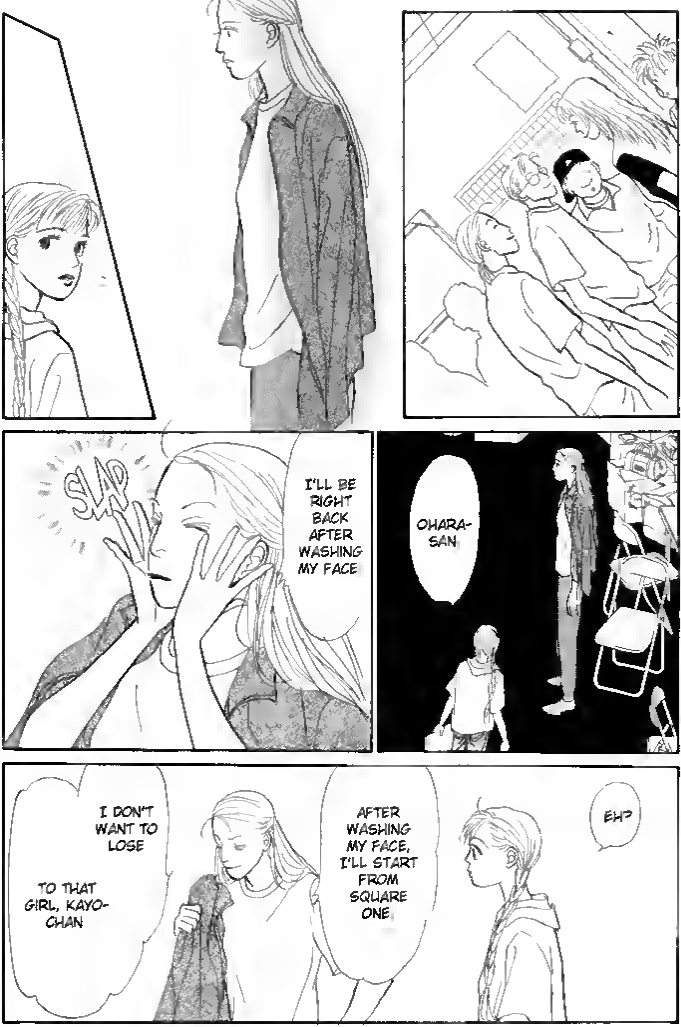
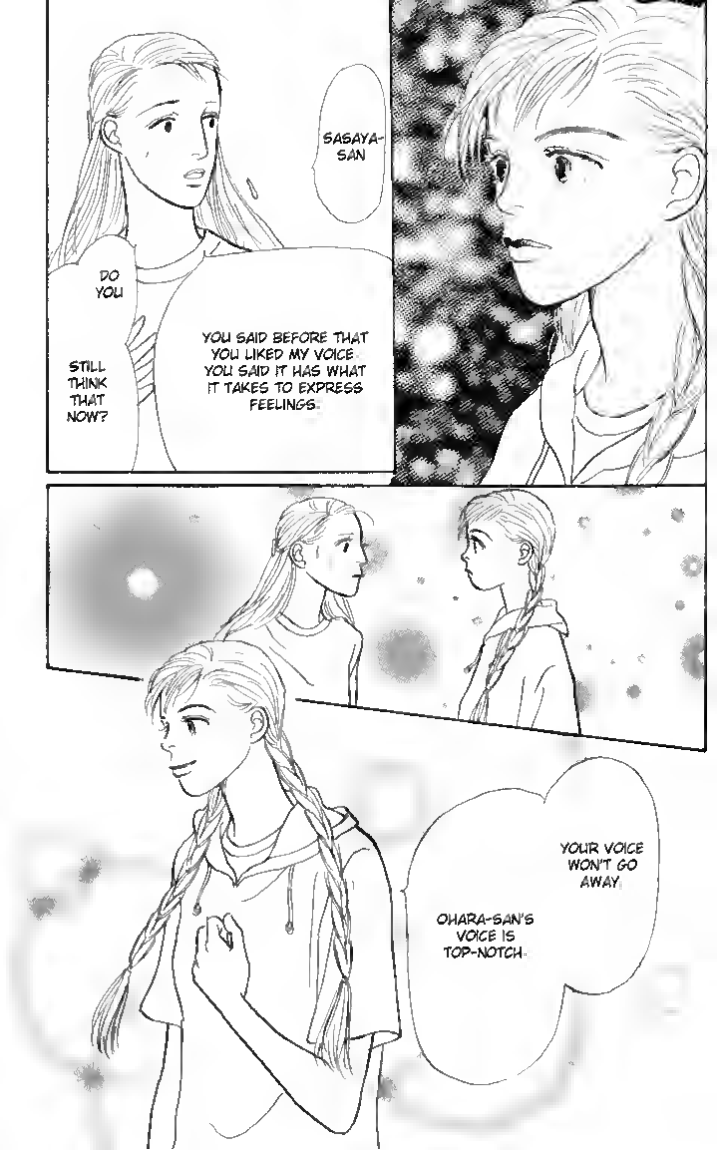

KAYO-SAN.
LET'S START FROM THE BEGINNING TODAY.
ALL RIGHT.
WHAT? THAT GIRL'S FACIAL EXPRESSION.
Yes!

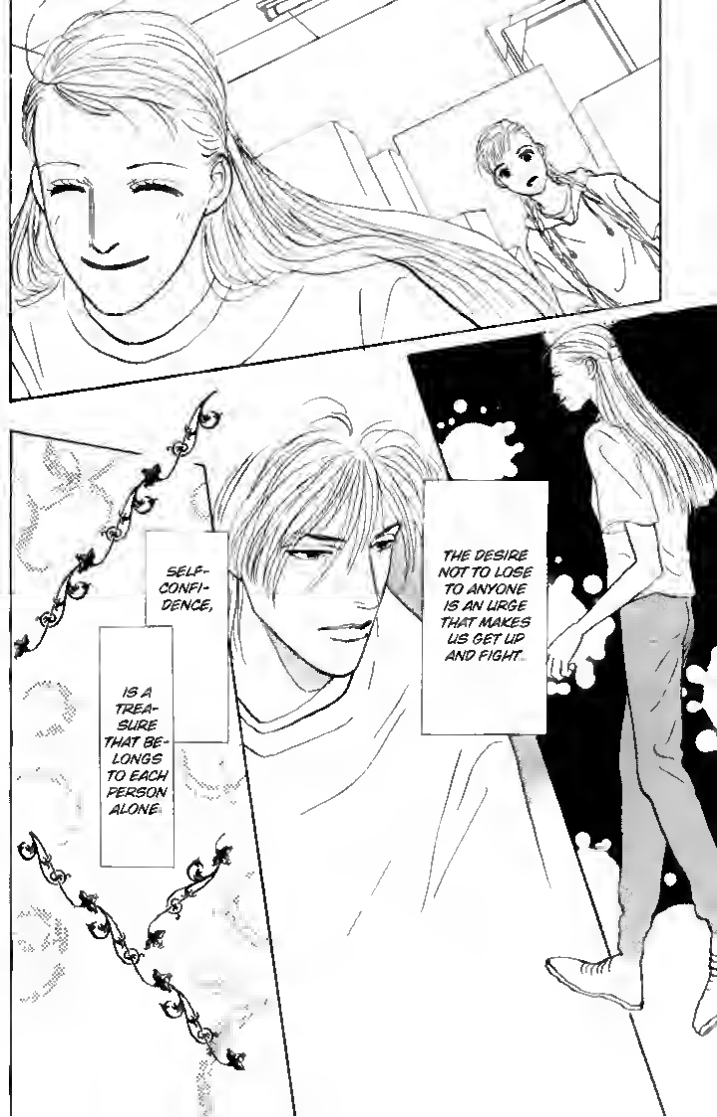

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WATCH OTHER PEOPLE PRACTICE
I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO ON MY OWN..
BUT THAT GIRL...


LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOING TO BE A 'FUJIE' THAT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM MINE
MISORE-SAN!
IT'S REALLY INTERES-TING
fu fu fu
YUU-CHAN ASKED ME TO COME ALONG SHE SAID SHE'S GOT SOMETHING FUN FOR ME TO WATCH SO I CAME.

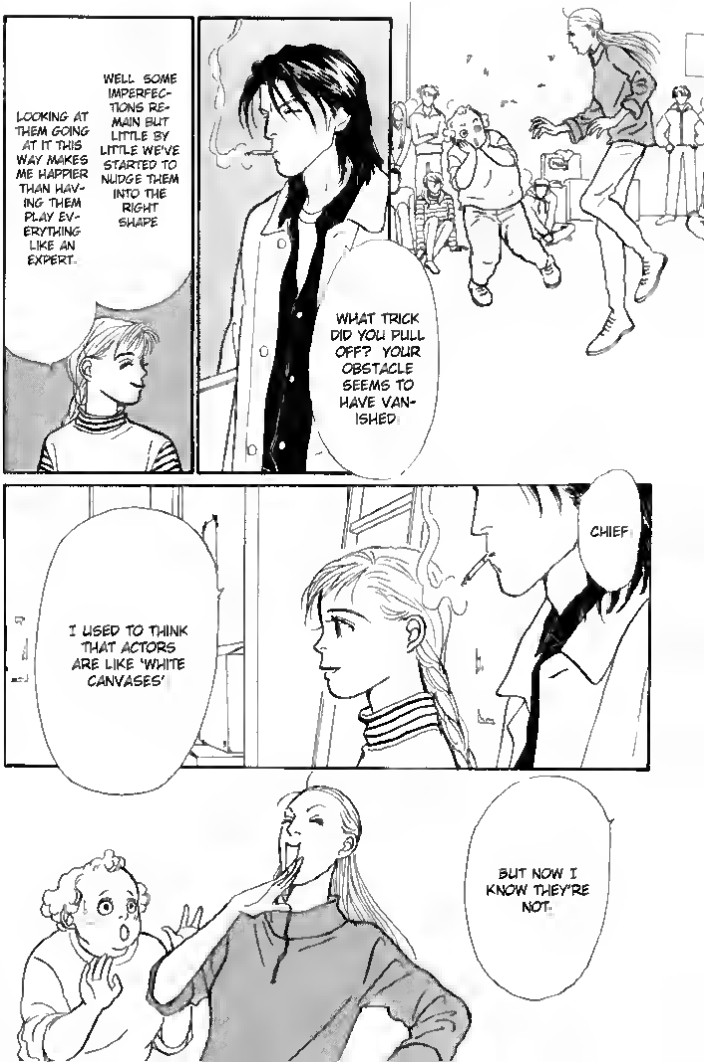
THAT'S JUST A NEW 'FUJIE', THE ONE THAT GIRL JUST CREATED.
MY 'FUJIE' WASN'T DESTROYED AT ALL.
INTE-REST-ING?
THE ROLE YOU USED TO PLAY WAS DE-STROYED
ISN'T IT FUN? THE MORE AC-TRESSES THAT PLAY 'FUJIE', THE MORE 'FUJIES' THAT ARE CREATED
THAT'S THE VALUE OF AN ACTOR.
Takatsuki Misore!!
OH, MISORE-SAN!

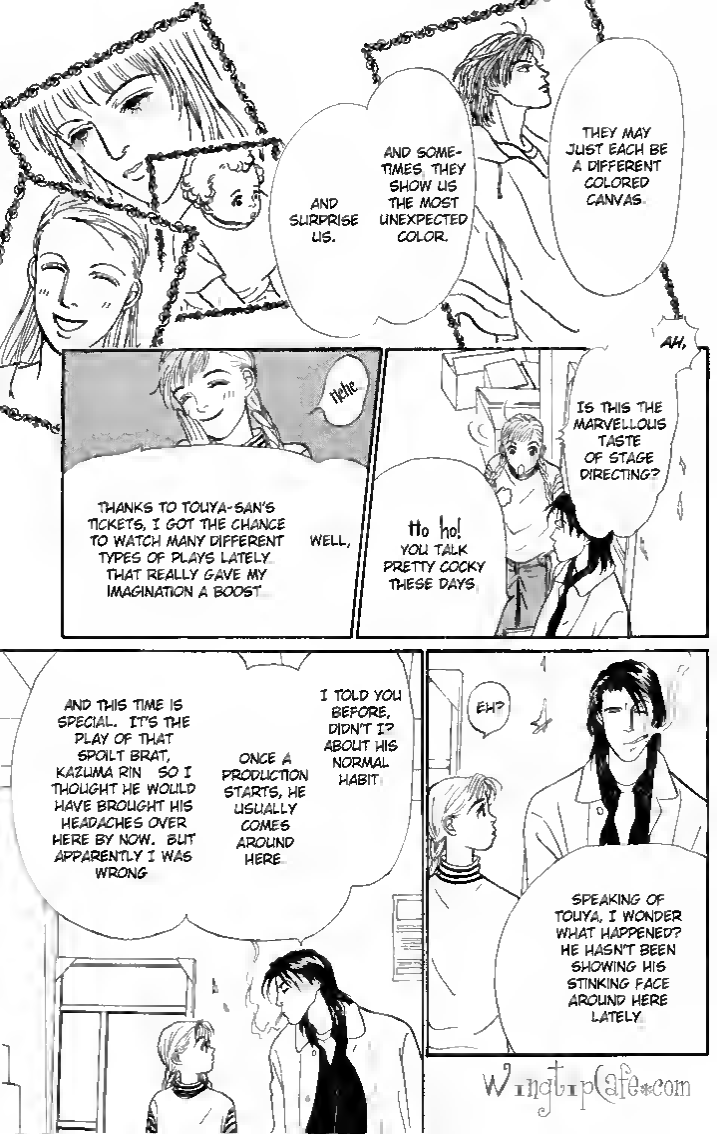

SLAP
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK AFTER WASHING MY FACE
OHARA-SAN
EH?
AFTER WASHING MY FACE, I'LL START FROM SQUARE ONE
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO THAT GIRL, KAYO-CHAN


SASAYA-SAN
DO YOU STILL THINK THAT NOW?
YOU SAID BEFORE THAT YOU LIKED MY VOICE. YOU SAID IT HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO EXPRESS FEELINGS.
YOUR VOICE WON'T GO AWAY.
OHARA-SAN'S VOICE IS TOP-NOTCH.


SELF-CONFI-DENCE,
IS A TREA-SURE THAT BE-LONGS TO EACH PERSON ALONE.
THE DESIRE NOT TO LOSE TO ANYONE IS AN URGE THAT MAKES US GET UP AND FIGHT.

GRANNY ..
I GUESS PEOPLE NEED SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO
LIKE SELF-CONFI-DENCE THAT BE-LONGS ONLY TO THEM
JUST TO THEM


LOOKING AT THEM GOING AT IT THIS WAY MAKES ME HAPPIER THAN HAVING THEM PLAY EVERYTHING LIKE AN EXPERT.
WELL SOME IMPERFECTIONS REMAIN BUT LITTLE BY LITTLE WE'VE STARTED TO NUDGE THEM INTO THE RIGHT SHAPE
WHAT TRICK DID YOU PULL OFF? YOUR OBSTACLE SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED
CHIEF
I USED TO THINK THAT ACTORS ARE LIKE 'WHITE CANVASES'
BUT NOW I KNOW THEY'RE NOT.


THEY MAY JUST EACH BE A DIFFERENT COLORED CANVAS.
AND SOMETIMES THEY SHOW US THE MOST UNEXPECTED COLOR.
AND SURPRISE US.
tete
THANKS TO TOUYA-SAN'S TICKETS, I GOT THE CHANCE TO WATCH MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLAYS LATELY. THAT REALLY GAVE MY IMAGINATION A BOOST.
WELL,
AH,
IS THIS THE MARVELLOUS TASTE OF STAGE DIRECTING?
Ho ho!
YOU TALK PRETTY COCKY THESE DAYS.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I? ABOUT HIS NORMAL HABIT.
ONCE A PRODUCTION STARTS, HE USUALLY COMES AROUND HERE.
AND THIS TIME IS SPECIAL. IT'S THE PLAY OF THAT SPOILT BRAT, KAZUMA RIN. SO I THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE BROUGHT HIS HEADACHES OVER HERE BY NOW. BUT APPARENTLY I WAS WRONG.
EH?
SPEAKING OF TOUYA, I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED? HE HASN'T BEEN SHOWING HIS STINKING FACE AROUND HERE LATELY.

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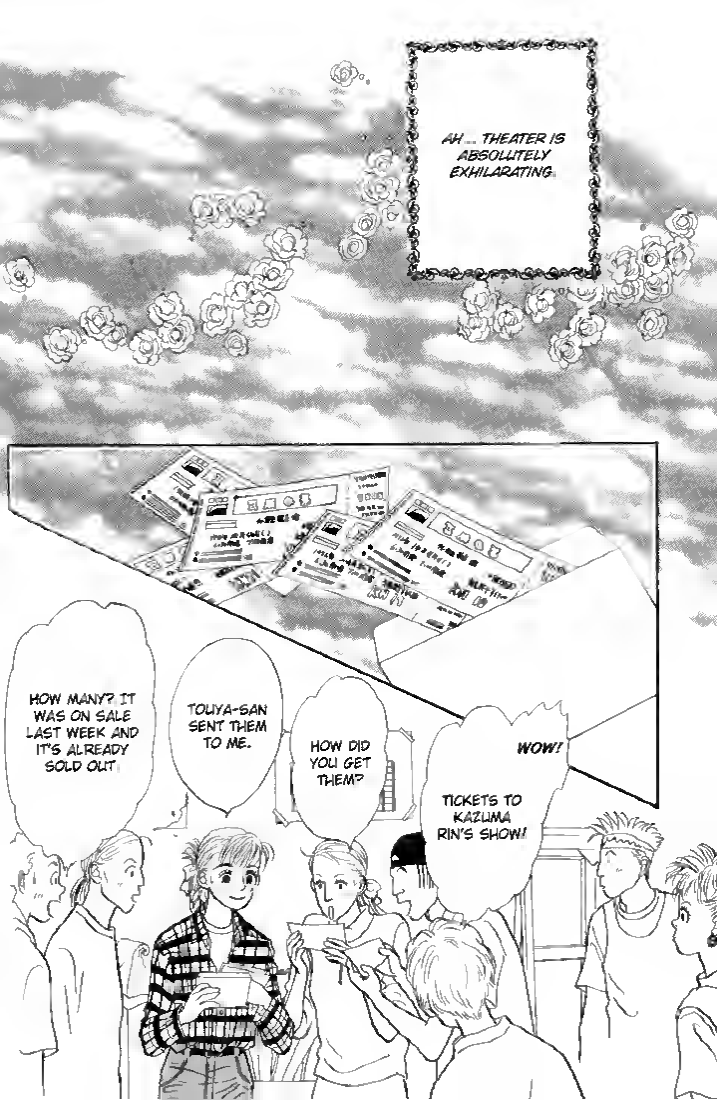
MAYBE..! HE HAS FOUND THE ANSWERS HIMSELF?
IT MAY BE SOMETHING UNEXPECTED AND IT CONFUSED HIM A LITTLE.
BUT FOR HIM NOT COMING TO SEE YOU MEANS THAT HE'S TRYING TO OVERCOME THIS BY HIMSELF. THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
...
I SEE.
SO HE'S FOUND A BETTER CONFIDANTE THAN ME.
He he
?
GRANNY,
THE REHEARSAL FOR 'HANA' IS TAKING SHAPE.

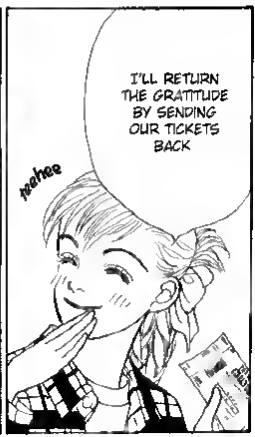
HOW STRANGE
IT'S THE SAME PLAY, AFTER ALL
BUT IT CAME OUT SO DIFFERENT, LIKE THEY'RE TWO DIFFERENT PLAYS.
THE AUDIENCE LAST TIME WILL BE IN FOR A SURPRISE
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE TWO LEAD STARS THAT ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM LAST TIME.
A NEW PLAY IS REBORN.

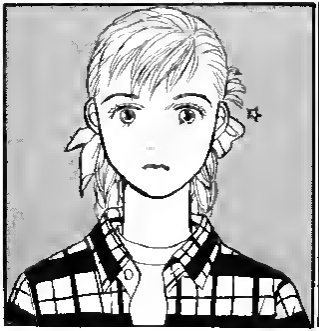

AH... THEATER IS ABSOLUTELY EXHILARATING.
HOW MANY? IT WAS ON SALE LAST WEEK AND IT'S ALREADY SOLD OUT.
TOUYA-SAN SENT THEM TO ME.
HOW DID YOU GET THEM?
WOW!
TICKETS TO KAZUMA RIN'S SHOW!

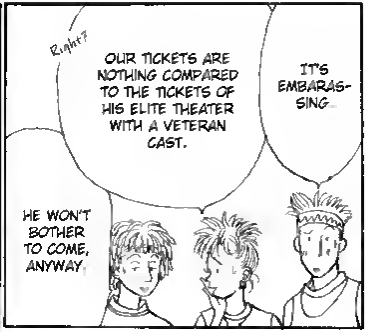
AH!
Hey, let us in too
New members are subject to passing the seniors!
NO, WE'LL DO IT BY DRAW!
ROCK, PAPER, SCIS-SORS!
...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SASAYA-SAN?
OKAY
rustle
rustle

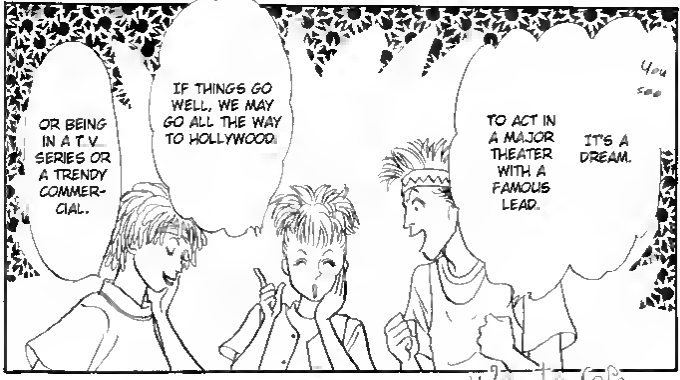
P-PLEASE... DON'T...
ARE... YOU SURE?


I'LL RETURN THE GRATITUDE BY SENDING OUR TICKETS BACK
nehee




Right?
OUR TICKETS ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE TICKETS OF HIS ELITE THEATER WITH A VETERAN CAST.
IT'S EMBARASSING.
HE WON'T BOTHER TO COME, ANYWAY.

AND THE SIZE OF THE THEATER COUNTS.
BUT IN REALITY, THEY'RE THE REASON WHY THE AUDIENCES COME TO WATCH
WELL... BUT...
Uhm
HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE VALUE OF A PLAY.
THAT'S CRAZY... VETERAN ACTORS AND FAMOUS STARS


OR BEING IN A T.V. SERIES OR A TRENDY COMMERCIAL.
IF THINGS GO WELL, WE MAY GO ALL THE WAY TO HOLLYWOOD.
TO ACT IN A MAJOR THEATER WITH A FAMOUS LEAD.
You see
IT'S A DREAM.

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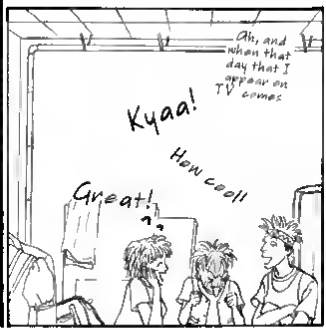


BUT INSTEAD OF DREAMING OF ACTING WITH A FAMOUS STAR OR IN AN ELITE THEATER

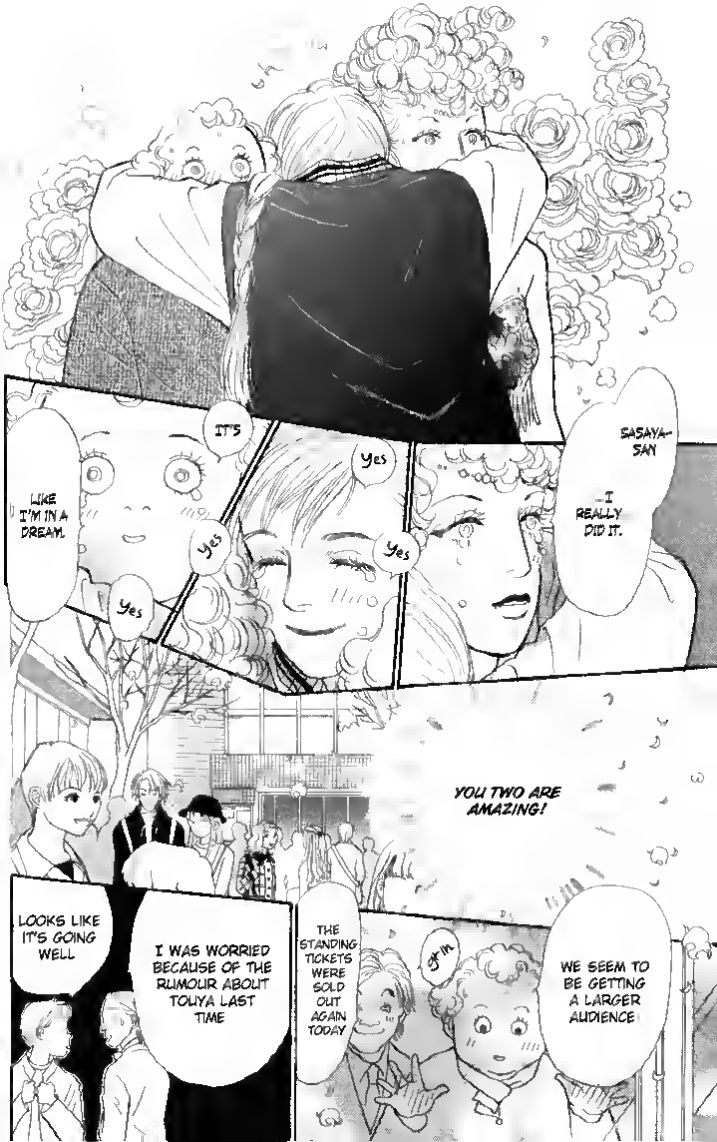
YES, EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN DREAM

I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH THOSE DREAMS

I'D RATHER THAT THEY DREAM OF MAKING A GOOD, SOLID PLAY.

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE SAME PLAY AS A FAMOUS STAR OR STAND ON A GREAT THEATER?
SORRY?
IS KAYO-SAN THE SAME TOO?
I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT I CAN'T GET THE TEMPO RIGHT
ANYWAY, SASAYA-SAN, ABOUT THE LINE IN ACT 3.
AND THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS WAITING IN FRONT OF ME RIGHT NOW...
I'M NOT THAT TALENTED I'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO
OW, YOU MUST BE KIDDING.
Here This Part

I WAS SO SURPRISED!
WAS THAT REALLY THE SAME PLAY?
IT WAS GREAT THE LAST TIME WITH TOUYA
BUT THIS TIME 'HANA' WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE IN A DIFFERENT WAY. THOSE TWO WERE AMAZING!
EH?! THAT ROLE?
IT'S ABSOLUTELY DIFFERENT
I WAS HOPING THAT TOUYA WOULD COME OUT AGAIN
BLEH... BORING


SASAYA-SAN
-I REALLY DID IT.
IT'S
LIKE I'M IN A DREAM.
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
YOU TWO ARE AMAZING!
WE SEEM TO BE GETTING A LARGER AUDIENCE
THE STANDING TICKETS WERE SOLD OUT AGAIN TODAY
I WAS WORRIED BECAUSE OF THE RUMOUR ABOUT TOUYA LAST TIME
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING WELL

BUT SOME PEOPLE STILL CAME FOR TOUYA-SAN
TO BE HONEST,
I DIDN'T EXPECT MUCH FROM YOUR SHOW. NO, I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING GOOD AT ALL.
I THOUGHT THAT ALL THE PUBLICITY CAME FROM THE PLAY BEING A "SHIMAMURA SHOUGO'S TROUPE" PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS THE ICHII TOUYA SCANDAL.
Y...

I'VE REALIZED I WAS WRONG
I'LL NEVER JUDGE ANYTHING UNTIL I SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES AGAIN
I WON'T...
IT'S A GREAT PLAY. GREAT SCRIPT.
A LITTLE BIT OF IMPERFECTION HERE AND THERE, THOUGH.
MINE STARTS SHOWING NEXT MONTH.
YOU MUST COME.
MY PLAY WILL BE SUPER BRILLIANT, I GUARANTEE YOU.

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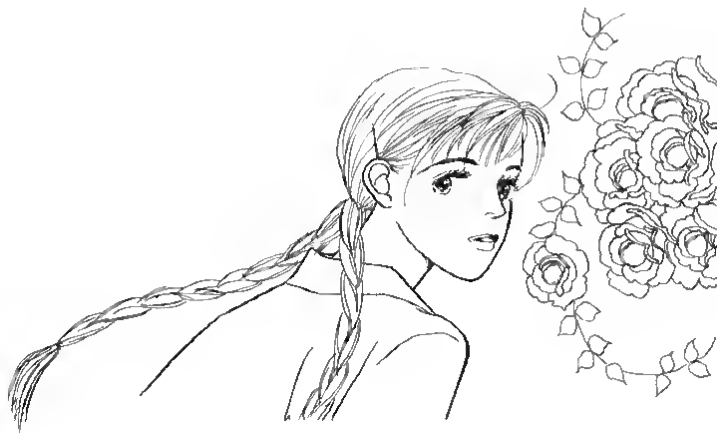
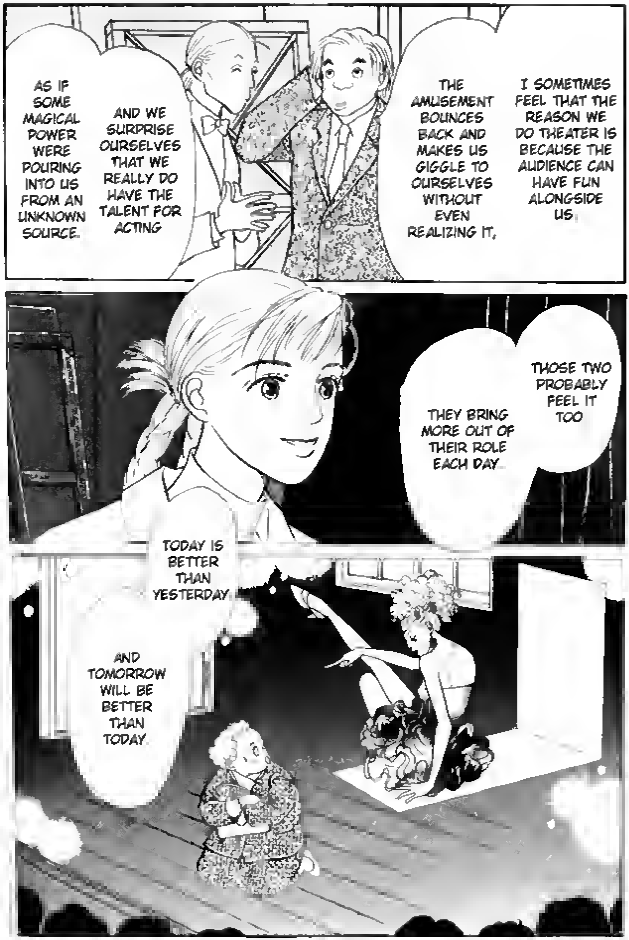


IT'S AN INCREDIBLE FEELING.
MY FRIEND SAID I HAD TO SEE IT AT LEAST ONCE.
IT'S GREAT, ESPECIALLY THE L_ST SCENE.
YOU'RE GLAD YOU CAME, RIGHT?
RIGHT ?


AS IF SOME MAGICAL POWER WERE POURING INTO US FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE.
AND WE SURPRISE OURSELVES THAT WE REALLY DO HAVE THE TALENT FOR ACTING
THE AMUSEMENT BOUNCES BACK AND MAKES US GIGGLE TO OURSELVES WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.
I SOMETIMES FEEL THAT THE REASON WE DO THEATER IS BECAUSE THE AUDIENCE CAN HAVE FUN ALONGSIDE US.
THOSE TWO PROBABLY FEEL IT TOO
THEY BRING MORE OUT OF THEIR ROLE EACH DAY.
TODAY IS BETTER THAN YESTERDAY.
AND TOMORROW WILL BE BETTER THAN TODAY.

THE "BRAVO!" FROM THE AUDIENCE,
THE APPLAUSE, THE ANTICIPATION,
AND THE POWER TO RESPOND TO THOSE THINGS
HELPS AN ACTOR GROW.
CHIEF
AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO FRIGHTENING
THE STAGE IS A LIVING BEAST, ISN'T IT?

IT CAN BE BROUGHT TO LIFE JUST AS IT CAN BE STOPPED AND KILLED.
YESTERDAY'S AUDIENCE MIGHT HAVE CLAPPED THEIR HANDS IN DELIGHT, BUT TODAY'S MIGHT NOT.
Grin
THIS BATTLE GOES ON EVERYDAY.
SCARED? NO JOB IS MORE FUN OR MORE WORTHY THAN THIS, I TELL YOU.
O-OKAY.
Are you trying to encourage me?
Or discourage me?
WHOA..
THE LINE IS LONG
WELL, IT'S OUR LAST DAY.

TOUYA-SAN DIDN'T COME AFTER ALL
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THE REHEARSAL OVER THERE IS TOUGH, HE MUST BE EXHAUSTED
dejected
I MADE IT IN TIME FOR THE LAST DAY.
MY EARS ARE FULL WITH ALL THE TALK ABOUT YOUR SHOWS
LOTS OF PEOPLE I KNOW HAVE ALREADY SEEN IT.
H-HOW WAS THE PLAY THIS TIME? FROM TOUYA-SAN'S PERSPECTIVE.

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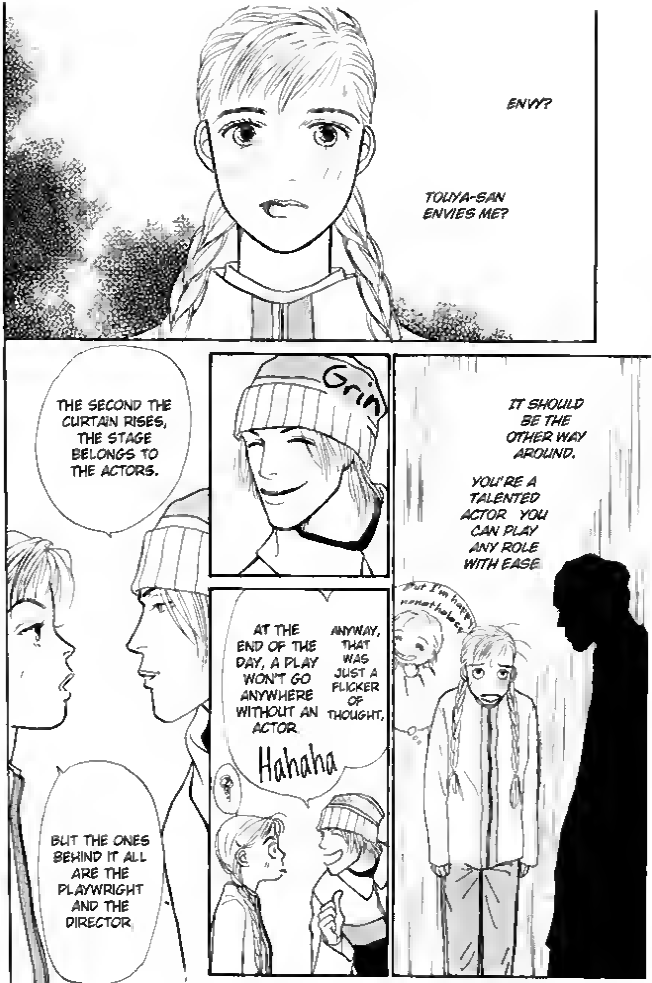
THE PLOT, THE MESSAGE
I'M AN ACTOR.
NO MATTER HOW THE ACTORS PLAYED IT OUT,
WHAT YOU WANTED TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH THE PLAY REMAINED THE SAME
BUT...
THERE ARE TIMES I ENVY DIRECTORS LIKE YOU.
AND TODAY I HAPPENED TO FEEL THAT WAY.


ENVY?
TOLYA-SAN ENVIES ME?
Grin
IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
YOU'RE A TALENTED ACTOR. YOU CAN PLAY ANY ROLE WITH EASE.
But I'm happy nonetheless.
THE SECOND THE CURTAIN RISES, THE STAGE BELONGS TO THE ACTORS.
AT THE END OF THE DAY, A PLAY WON'T GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT AN ACTOR.
ANYWAY, THAT WAS JUST A FLICKER OF THOUGHT.
Hahaha
BUT THE ONES BEHIND IT ALL ARE THE PLAYWRIGHT AND THE DIRECTOR.

BATTLE
ERM...
Eh?
Ah!
MAY WE HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH PLEASE?
KYA! ICHII TOUYA!!

THIS IS GREAT.
HE'S BACK TO BEING THE DETERMINED TOUYA-SAN AGAIN.
NO.. HIS EYES ARE FULL OF MORE DETERMINATION THAN EVER
GREAT
THOSE SPIRITED EYES BEFITTING OF ICHII TOUYA
YES!

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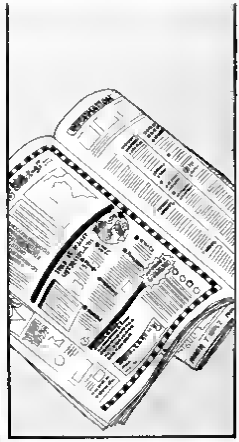
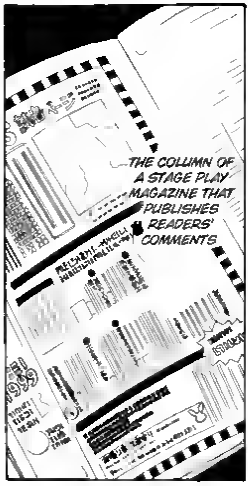
OH
YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE THAT ONE
throw
HARSH CRITICISM DESERVES A GLANCE AS WELL.
NO IF WE ONLY CHOOSE TO HEAR THE COMPLIMENTS, THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WON'T SERVE ITS PURPOSE.
If I'd known it'd be so hard I'd've had a bill for bucks for the budget?
BLEH, SOME PEOPLE JUST WRITE WHATEVER TICKLES THEIR FANCY.
SEE?

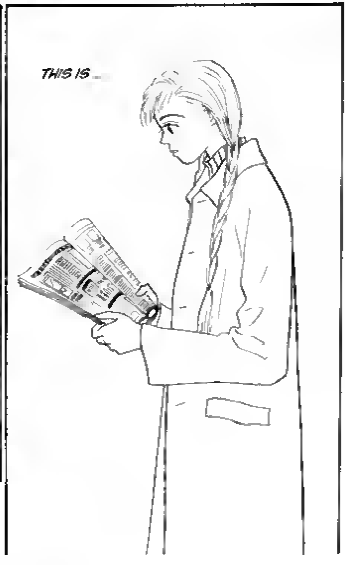
*Typesetter's Note bubble says "depressed"

hehehe
BECAUSE YOU ONLY PICK THAT TYPE OF RESPONSE TO READ
OH! I'VE GOT A GOOD COMMENT IN THIS ONE TOO
BUT MOST OF THESE ARE 'IT'S VERY GOOD' OR 'I LOVE IT'
GRANNY
A 100% PERFECT PLAY IS IMPOSSIBLE
BUT...

THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE ONE STEP CLOSER
GIVES YOU THE COURAGE FOR THE NEXT STEP THE FOLLOWING DAY.
NO
NO
NO
The life of a student is tough
YEAH!
AND DIDN'T YOU WAIL THE OTHER DAY THAT YOUR EXAMS WERE COMING UP SOON?
I completely forgot
Ah!
Kyaa
HEY! HOW'S THAT SCRIPT I TALKED ABOUT COMING ALONG?
I... WON'T GIVE UP.







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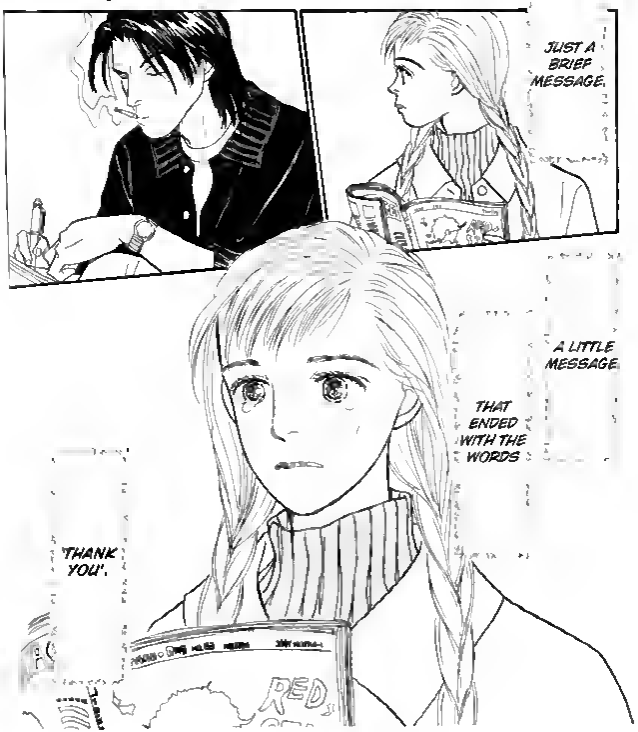
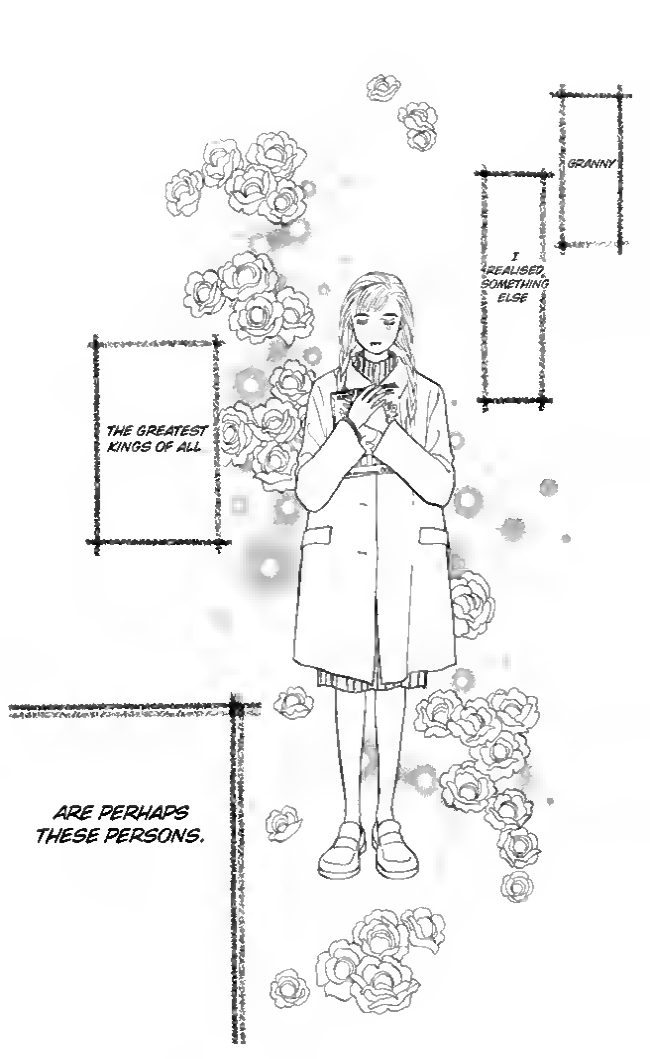
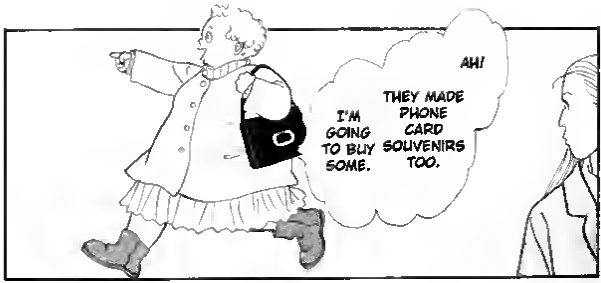
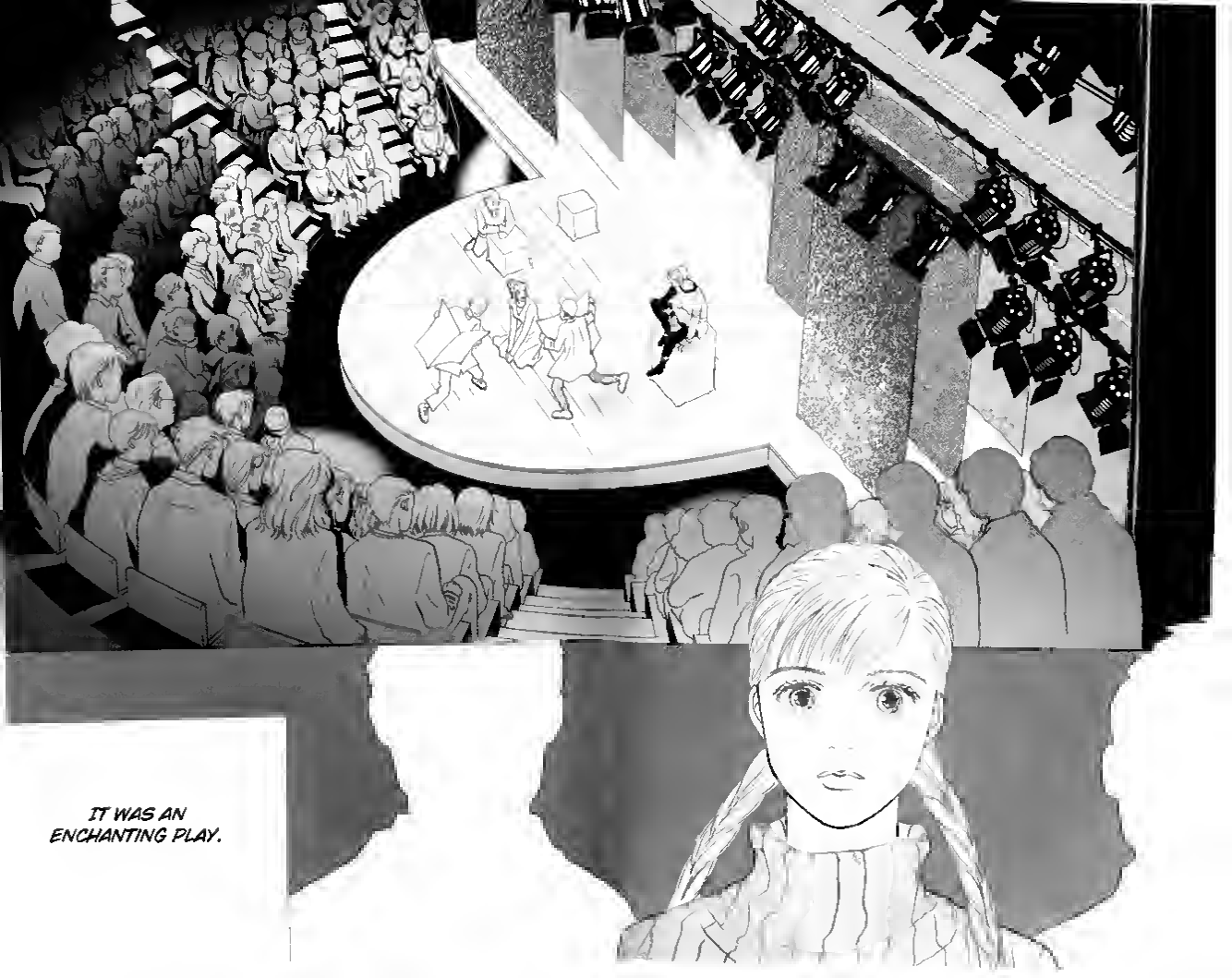

IT WROTE ABOUT A WOMAN
WHO WAS GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME WITH HER WORK AND COLLEAGUES,
AND WHO HAPPENED TO GO AND WATCH 'HANA',
AFTERWHICH SHE GAINED THE COURAGE TO TAKE A NEW LOOK AT HER LIFE.
THAT'S WHAT IT SAID...
JUST A BRIEF MESSAGE.
A LITTLE MESSAGE.
THAT ENDED WITH THE WORDS
'THANK YOU'.


GRANNY
I REALISED SOMETHING ELSE
THE GREATEST KINGS OF ALL
ARE PERHAPS THESE PERSONS.

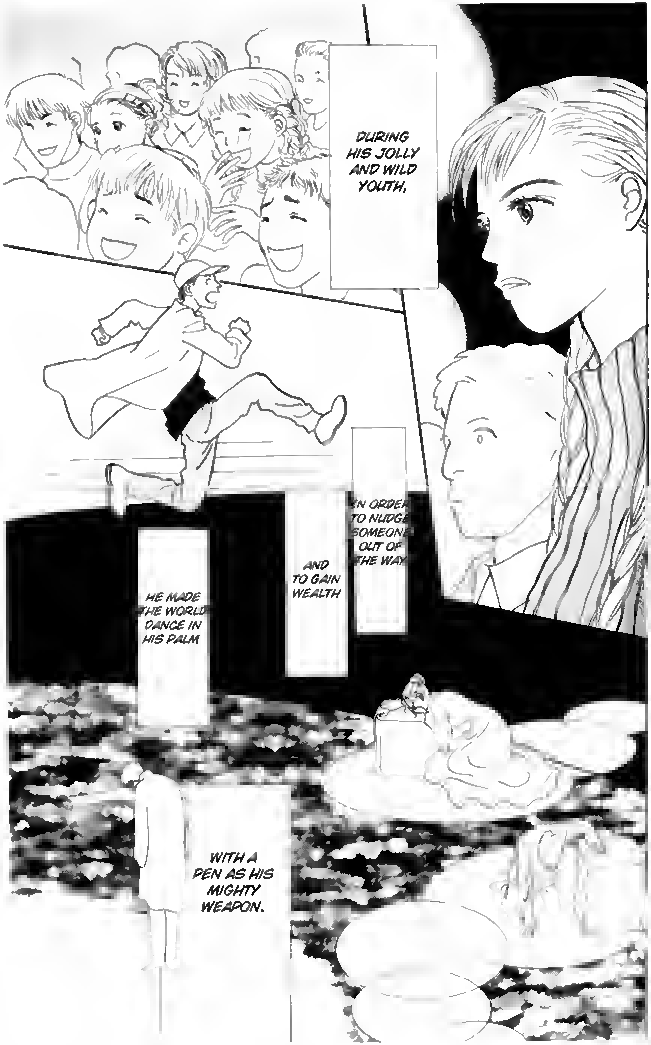
The Blighted Leaves
HEY, DID YOU SEE?
ALL THOSE BOUQUETS FROM CELEBRITIES.


AH!
THEY MADE PHONE CARD SOUVENIRS TOO.
I'M GOING TO BUY SOME.

Full of self-confidence
I'LL BE WATCHING KAZUMA'S PLAY SOON.
HUH, HE TOLD ME TO COME.
For my friends
You bought a lot


IT WAS AN ENCHANTING PLAY.

THE PROTAGONIST WAS A FREELANCE WRITER
EVERYDAY HE MADE A TOAST TO HIS PAST SUCCESS
WHEN HE WAS DRUNK,
UPON EACH OF HIS SWAYING STEPS
WORDS HE USED TO WRITE SO ARTICULATELY IN THE PAST
WHISPERED OUT OF HIS FOOT


DURING HIS JOLLY AND WILD YOUTH,
IN ORDER TO NUDGE SOMEONE OUT OF THE WAY
AND TO GAIN WEALTH
HE MADE THE WORLD DANCE IN HIS PALM
WITH A PEN AS HIS MIGHTY WEAPON.

HOW STRANGE
THE ONLY PERSON WHO SAT ALONG WITHOUT MOVING AN INCH, THE ONE WHO KEPT REPEATING THE WORDS THE PROTAGONIST USED TO WRITE.
IT FELT LIKE HIS PRESENCE WAS THE HEAVIEST.
COMPARED TO THE OTHER CHARACTERS

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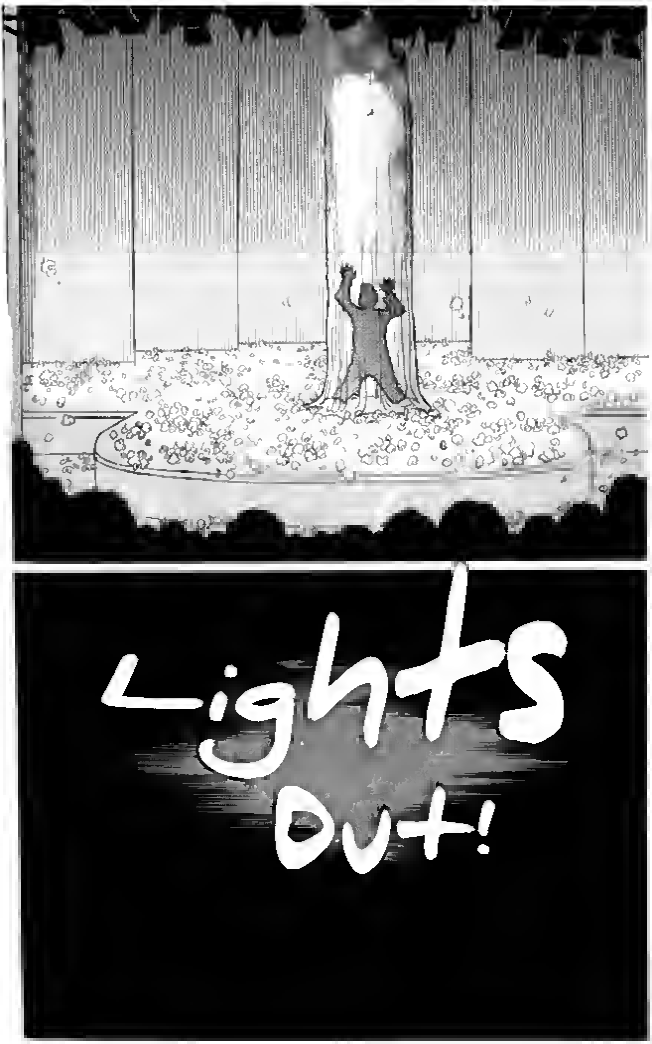
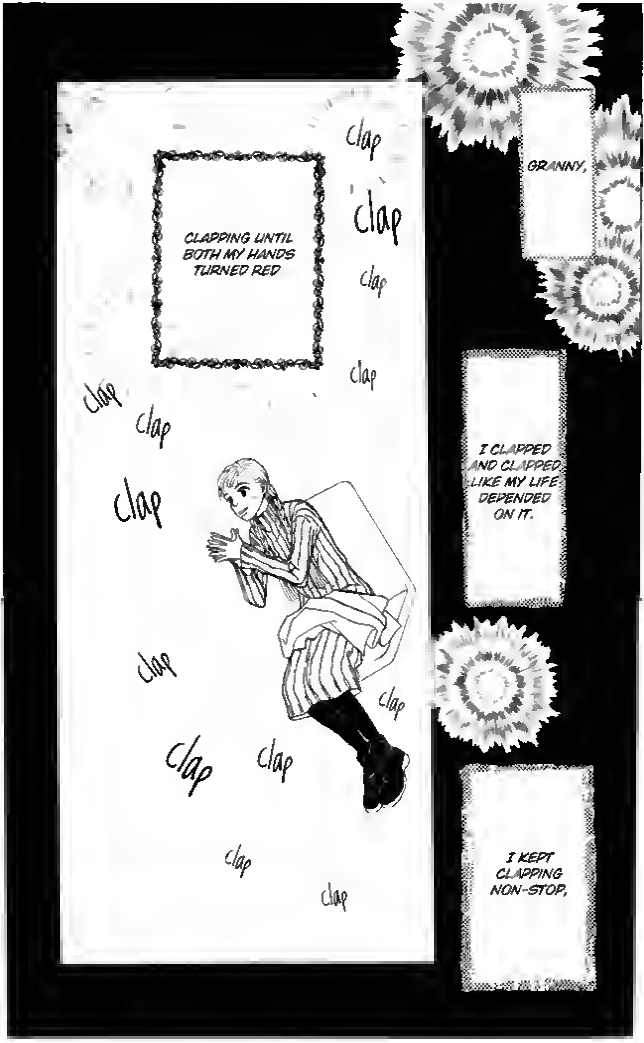
THE WEIGHT OF THOSE WORDS
THE PEOPLE DANCED BY THEM
THE WORDS THAT KEPT PILING ON TOP OF EACH OTHER, OVER AND OVER.
AS IF...

Translator's Note: The name of the play, "The Blighted Leaves," is a play on words as "leaf" has the same character as "word" in Japanese.


Lights
Out!

MY PLAY WILL BE SUPER BRILLIANT, I GUARANTEE YOU


CLAPPING UNTIL BOTH MY HANDS TURNED RED
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
GRANNY,
I CLAPPED AND CLAPPED, LIKE MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.
I KEPT CLAPPING NON-STOP,

ASHITA NO OUSAMA
明日の王様
UNIT 27

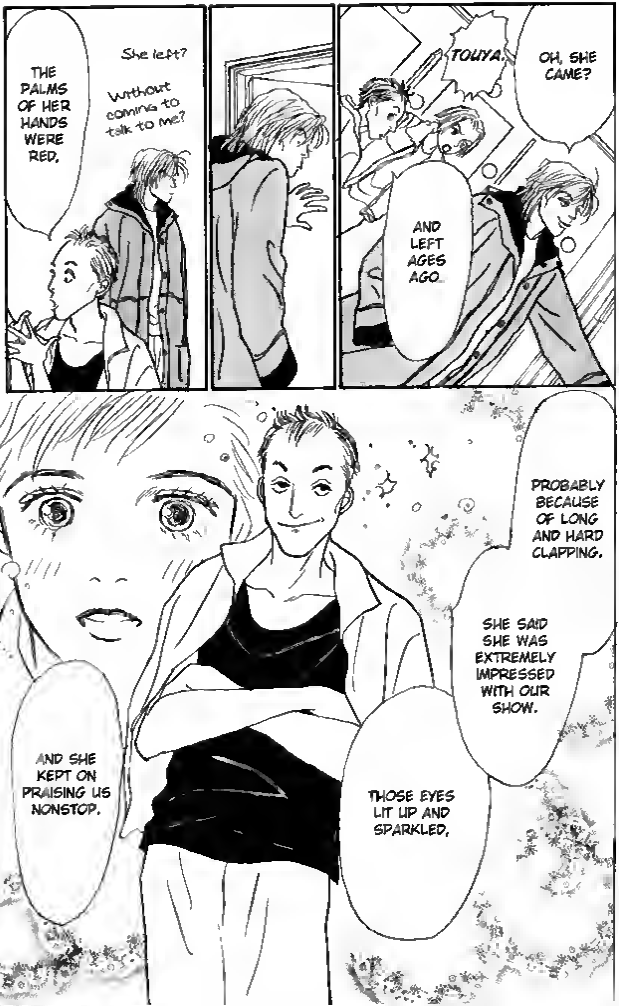
THAT ACTOR LEFT ME WITH THE DEEPEST IMPRESSION.
EVEN THOUGH HE HARDLY MOVED ON STAGE,
THE WORDS THAT CAME OUT OF HIM
BEGAN TRANSFORMING INTO SHADES AND COLORS
WHICH ENGULFED THE STAGE,

T/N: * In the Japanese language, the word 'Leaf' and 'Word' share the same character. The title of the piece is a wordplay on this.
AT THE END, THE PROTAGONIST
WAS BURIED UNDER THE WORDS HE WROTE.
IN THE LARGE OLD TREE.
LIKE FALLEN LEAVES*
YES.
red and stinging
red and stinging
KAZUMA RIN!
AH
DOD
DOD
DOD
red and stinging
WHAT'S WRONG?

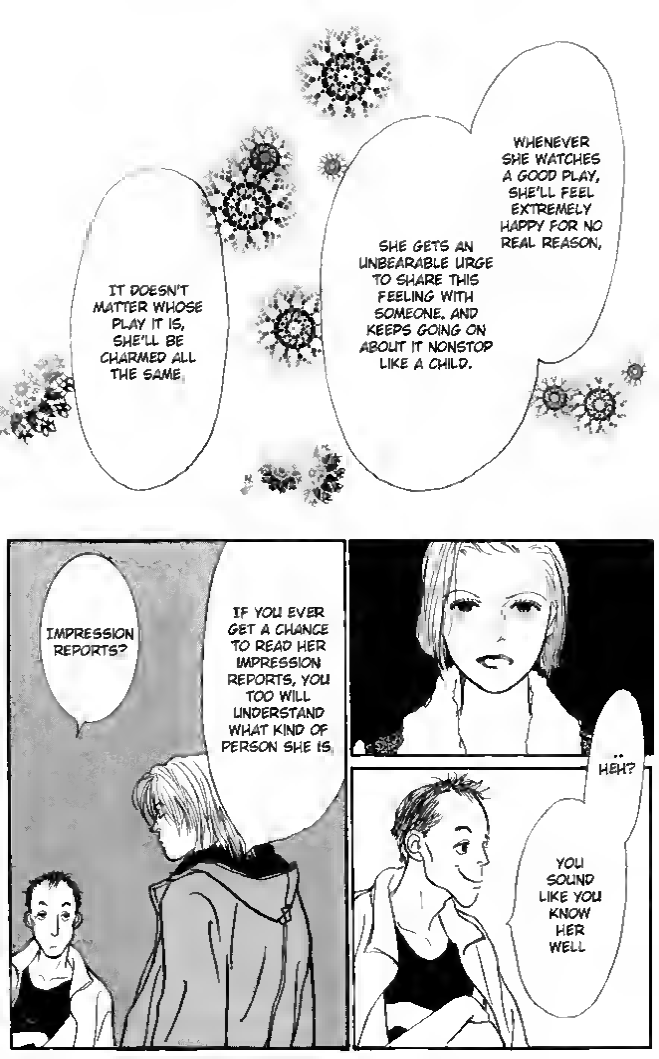
YO.

HA HA HA. IT'S ONLY NATURAL. THE ROLE IS SO BORING.
WHAT'S THIS? YOU LOOK MORE WORN OUT EVERY DAY AFTER THE PERFORMANCE.
WE CAN HARDLY STAND UP OURSELVES.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
open
THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T SHARE IN OUR MISERY IS THE DEMON DIRECTOR.
I PASS OUT THE MINUTE MY HEAD HITS THE PILLOW.
WE'VE GOT ANOTHER WEEK OF SHOW TO PERFORM.
YOU'D BETTER HEAD STRAIGHT ON HOME. NO PARTYING ON THE WAY, OK?
HEY! HOW ARE YOU GUYS?
Speak of the devil!

TOUYA...
SEE YOU!
DO WE LOOK LIKE WE HAVE THE ENERGY LEFT TO PARTY?
WHO?
SAY, WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?
SASAYA YUU, OF COURSE.


THE PALMS OF HER HANDS WERE RED.
She left?
Without coming to talk to me?
TOUYA.
OH, SHE CAME?
AND LEFT AGES AGO...
PROBABLY BECAUSE OF LONG AND HARD CLAPPING.
SHE SAID SHE WAS EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH OUR SHOW.
AND SHE KEPT ON PRAISING US NONSTOP.
THOSE EYES LIT UP AND SPARKLED,

OR MAYBE PART OF IT WAS.
SHE MIGHT SHOWER ME WITH PRAISE, BUT DEEP DOWN SHE MUST FEEL JEALOUS
maybe a little bit
WHEN YOU COMPETE IN THE SAME ARENA, YOU JUST CAN'T HELP BUT REGARD OTHERS AS RIVALS
IF THAT WAS AN ACT, THEN IT WAS A SUPERB ONE
AN ACT?
BUT...
SHE'S ALSO VERY SENSITIVE AND EASILY IMPRESSED
THAT GIRL HATES LOSING THE MOST


WHENEVER SHE WATCHES A GOOD PLAY, SHE'LL FEEL EXTREMELY HAPPY FOR NO REAL REASON,
SHE GETS AN UNBEARABLE URGE TO SHARE THIS FEELING WITH SOMEONE. AND KEEPS GOING ON ABOUT IT NONSTOP LIKE A CHILD.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHOSE PLAY IT IS, SHE'LL BE CHARMED ALL THE SAME.
IMPRESSION REPORTS?
IF YOU EVER GET A CHANCE TO READ HER IMPRESSION REPORTS, YOU TOO WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE IS.
..HEH?
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU KNOW HER WELL

HEY! IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
NO.
THEY'RE REALLY FUN TO READ, EVEN SURPRISING AT TIMES.
and I was just thinking
YES SHE WRITES A REPORT ABOUT HER IMPRESSION OF EACH PLAY SHE WATCHES SHE TAKES IT SERIOUSLY
I'D LOVE TO READ THEM
NO WAY!

TOUYA
WHAT IS SASAYA YUU TO YOU?
CHEER-FULNESS.
AFTER I LISTEN TO WHAT SHE SAYS,
THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'VE GAINED COURAGE TO WORK MORE.
IT'S SUCH A STRANGE SOURCE OF POWER..

THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S ONE OF TOUYA'S FANS. YOU FEEL ENCOURAGED BY YOUR FANS' VOICES. WHAT'S BOTHERING YOUR MIND GOES AWAY.
Z-zzz
Z-zzz
Z-zzz
DON'T INTERPRET IT THE WRONG WAY, TOUYA.

I CAN'T SLEEP.
DEEP DOWN INSIDE, MY HEART IS STILL THROBBING.
SLIDE
ARE STILL TINGLING.
MY PALMS...

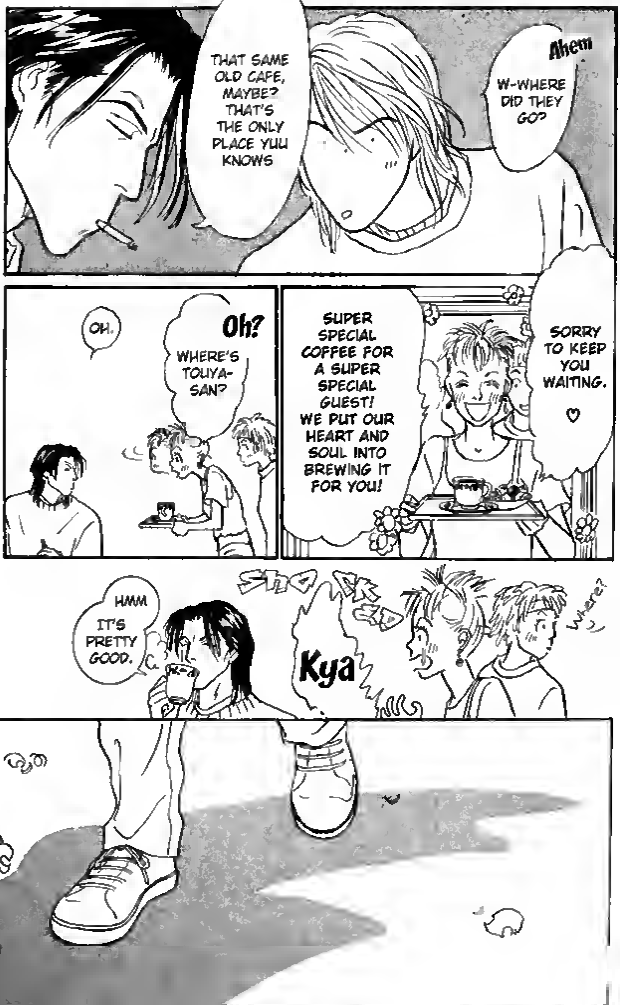
GRANNY,
Breathe
AH ...
FWOOSH
Achoo
THIS FEELING ...
.....
I MUST CHANGE IT INTO THE FUEL TO MOVE FORWARD
clench
OR I'LL LOSE TO HIM.
WHOOSH
A...
Achoo!

Stoppp!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER TO ME!

BOTH MY GOAL
AND DREAMS
ARE STILL SO FAR AWAY.

AND ONCE I GET IT, IT'LL BE WEEKS BEFORE I'M UP AND WORKING AGAIN!
BUT SPARE ME THE COLD. I'M MORE LIKELY TO CATCH IT THAN ANYONE ELSE.
I TAKE PRIDE IN MY POWER AND STAMINA.
cough
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
A cold is most dangerous when it's almost gone!
IT'S OKAY. IT'S ALMOST GONE.
AND I'M WEARING A MASK.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU LOOK SO RESTLESS
cough
SCARED

WHO?
WELL... MAYBE
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS SHE?
EH?
YOU SEEMED EDGY FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU CAME HERE TO CATCH SOME BREATH AND RELAX AFTER THE PRODUCTION?
OH, YUU?
SHE WENT OUT WITH KAZUMA A WHILE AGO.
KAZUMA-..SAN?
WHY DID HE COME HERE?
HE SAID THE SAME THING AS YOU.
Is it a new friend?
?
"THE PRODUCTION IS FINISHED I JUST WANNA FIND A PLACE TO CATCH SOME BREATH AND RELAX."

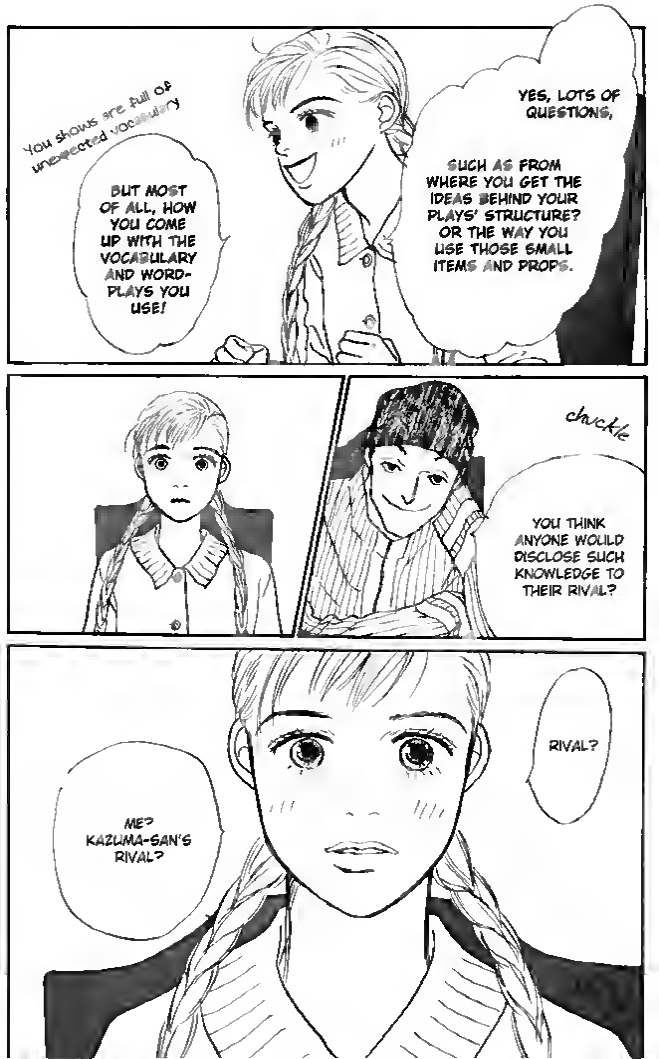

THAT SAME OLD CAFE, MAYBE? THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE YUU KNOWS
Ahem
W-WHERE DID THEY GO?
OH.
Oh?
WHERE'S TOUYA-SAN?
SUPER SPECIAL COFFEE FOR A SUPER SPECIAL GUEST! WE PUT OUR HEART AND SOUL INTO BREWING IT FOR YOU!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. ♡
HMM IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
Kya
W-are?

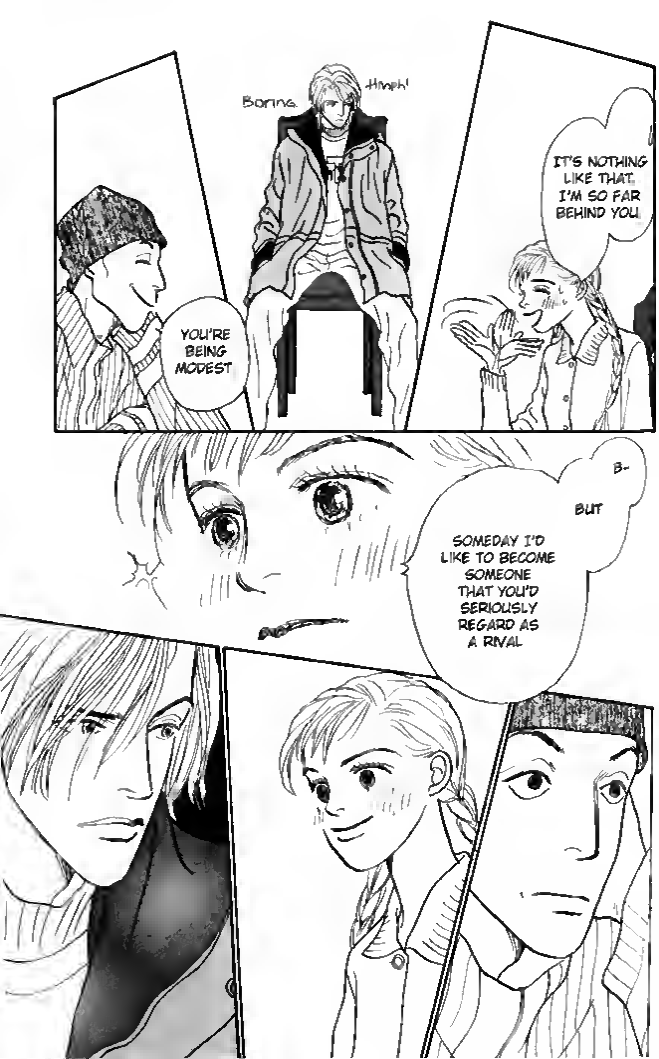
OPEN
MENU

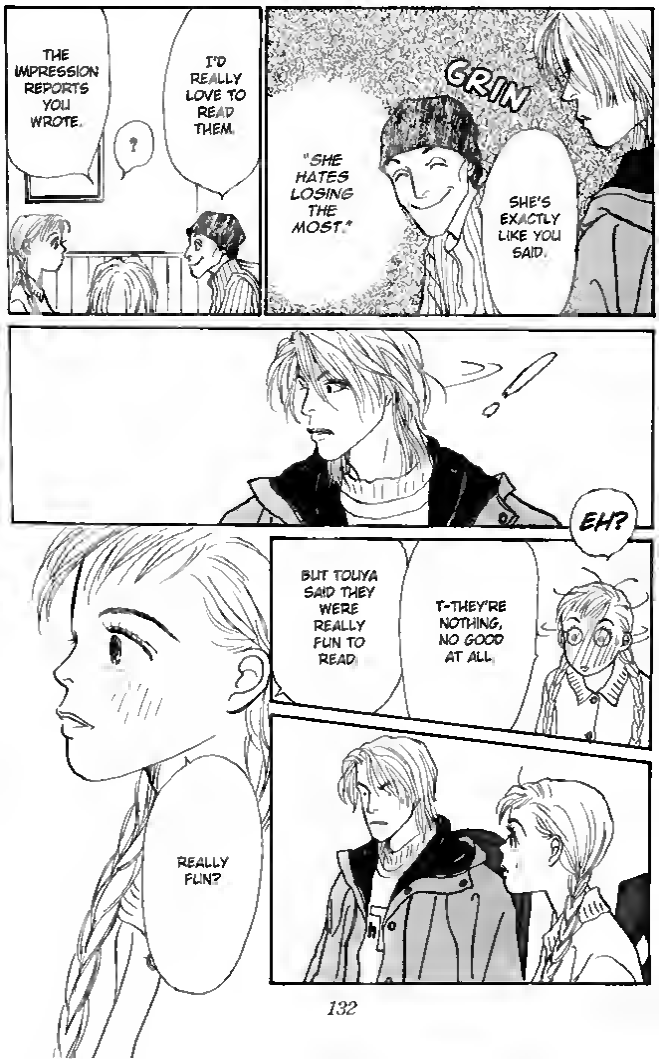
Hmph
HEY, WOULD YOU MIND TAKING OFF THE MASK?
EH? BUT ...
IT'S HARD TO HEAR YOU ANNOYING.
Sorry
BUT KAZUMA-SAN'S STORIES ARE ALL VERY INTERESTING. I CAN'T HELP BUT KEEP ASKING YOU QUESTIONS.
THAT'S HIS SPECIALTY.

TOUYA -SAN.
YO.
HOW UNEXPECTED TO SEE YOU HERE.
UNEX- PECTED, YOU SAY?
MAY I JOIN YOU?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE COMPL INING ABOUT THE WORKLOAD AND THAT YOU HAVE NO TIME TO RELAX.
AREN'T YOU THE SAME? I HEARD YOU HAVE ANOTHER TV SERIES ON THE WAY. WON'T THAT BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU?
ERM...

DON'T YOU HAVE THINGS TO DO AT THE REHEARSAL STUDIO?
HOW ABOUT YOU?
EVERYONE IS THERE.
AT THIS MOMENT, WE'RE STILL WAITING ON A NEW SCRIPT FROM THE CHIEF.
HE HIMSELF TOLD ME TO TAKE IT SLOW AND COME OUT FOR A CUP OF TEA.
ASK ME?
KAZUMA-SAN IS REALLY FUN TO TALK TO. I HAVE LOADS OF THINGS TO ASK HIM. THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY INDEED!
Take it slow


You shows are full of unexpected vocabulary
BUT MOST OF ALL, HOW YOU COME UP WITH THE VOCABULARY AND WORD-PLAYS YOU USE!
YES, LOTS OF QUESTIONS,
SUCH AS FROM WHERE YOU GET THE IDEAS BEHIND YOUR PLAYS' STRUCTURE? OR THE WAY YOU USE THOSE SMALL ITEMS AND PROPS.
chuckle
YOU THINK ANYONE WOULD DISCLOSE SUCH KNOWLEDGE TO THEIR RIVAL?
RIVAL?
ME? KAZUMA-SAN'S RIVAL?


Boring
Hmph!
YOU'RE BEING MODEST
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT. I'M SO FAR BEHIND YOU.
B-
BUT
SOMEDAY I'D LIKE TO BECOME SOMEONE THAT YOU'D SERIOUSLY REGARD AS A RIVAL


THE IMPRESSION REPORTS YOU WROTE.
I'D REALLY LOVE TO READ THEM.
?
GRIN
"SHE HATES LOSING THE MOST."
SHE'S EXACTLY LIKE YOU SAID.
EH?
BUT TOUYA SAID THEY WERE REALLY FUN TO READ.
T-THEY'RE NOTHING, NO GOOD AT ALL.
REALLY FUN?

NOT IN THE LEAST!
OOPS
OH, I SEE

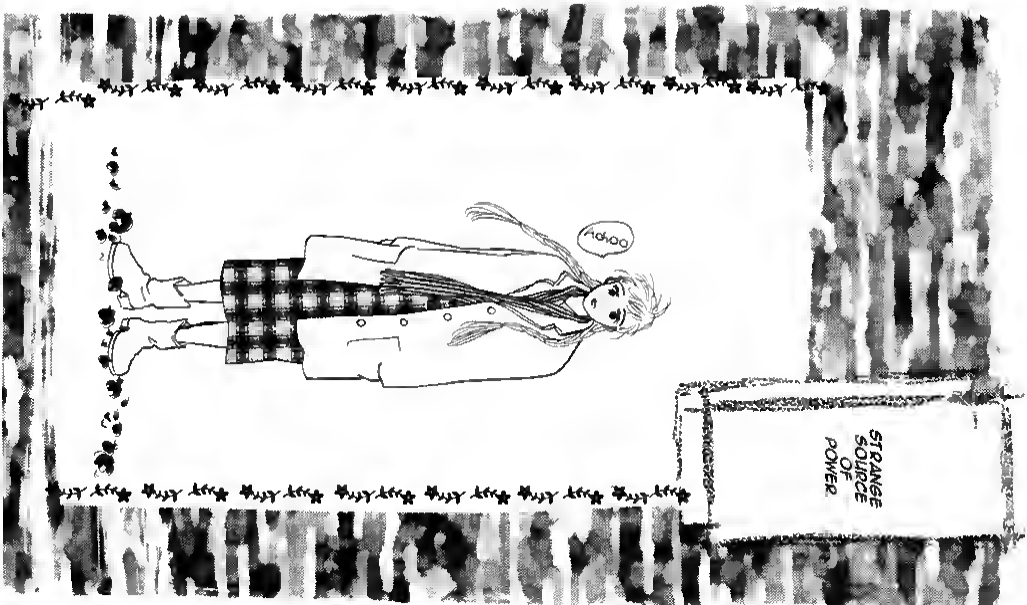
ha
ha
ha
BUT I'D LIKE TO READ THEM NONETHELESS, SINCE THEY'RE SOMETHING YOU WROTE.
SCRAPE
TOLYA-SAN?

BYE.
EH?
EH?
TOUYA-SAN?
Achoo.
FLINCH
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
Achoo
YOU...

WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?
pant
pant
IT DOESN'T CONCERN ME.
ISN'T THIS A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU? AND YOU HAVE SO MANY THINGS TO ASK HIM, DON'T YOU? BE MY GUEST THEN, KEEP KAZUMA-SAN COMPANY. THERE'S NO HURRY.
Achoo
TOUYA-SAN!

I CAME OUT FOR SOME FRESH AIR AND JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY THE CAFE YOU WERE IN WITH KAZUMA-SAN.
Sorry
I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOITER AROUND HERE AND PLAY.
I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO TOO.
LET'S CHAT AGAIN WHEN YOU'RE OVER THE COLD
BUT ... UM
FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR RARE OPPORTUNITY. IT'S NOT EVERYDAY YOU GET TO TALK TO KAZUMA-SAN.
EH?
Vroom
AH ...

WHAT EXACTLY IS S-SAYA YUU TO YOU?
CHEER-FULNESS
IT'S SUCH A STRANGE SOURCE OF POWER


Achoo
STRANGE SOURCE OF POWER

明日の王様

UNIT 28

VROOOM
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR RARE OPPORTUNITY IT'S NOT EVERYDAY THAT YOU GET TO TALK WITH KAZUMA-SAN...
THEN BE MY GUEST, KEEP KAZUMA-SAN COMPANY THERE'S NO HURRY
.....
WHAT A LOSER
WHY THE HELL AM I UPSET OVER THAT NON-SENSE?
Damnit!

If your cold gets worse go back and rest
WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY TOUYA-SAN SUDDENLY LEFT LOOKING DISPLEASED
Displeased?
DID YOU DO SOMETHING OUT OF LINE?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
I WAS TALKING TO KAZUMA-SAN AND SUDDENLY TOUYA-SAN JUST SAID HE WAS SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING
Ha ha ha
AN ACTOR WHO'S AN AMATEUR ON THE REAL LIFE STAGE. HE JUST COULDN'T KEEP HIS JEALOUSY INSIDE, COULD HE?

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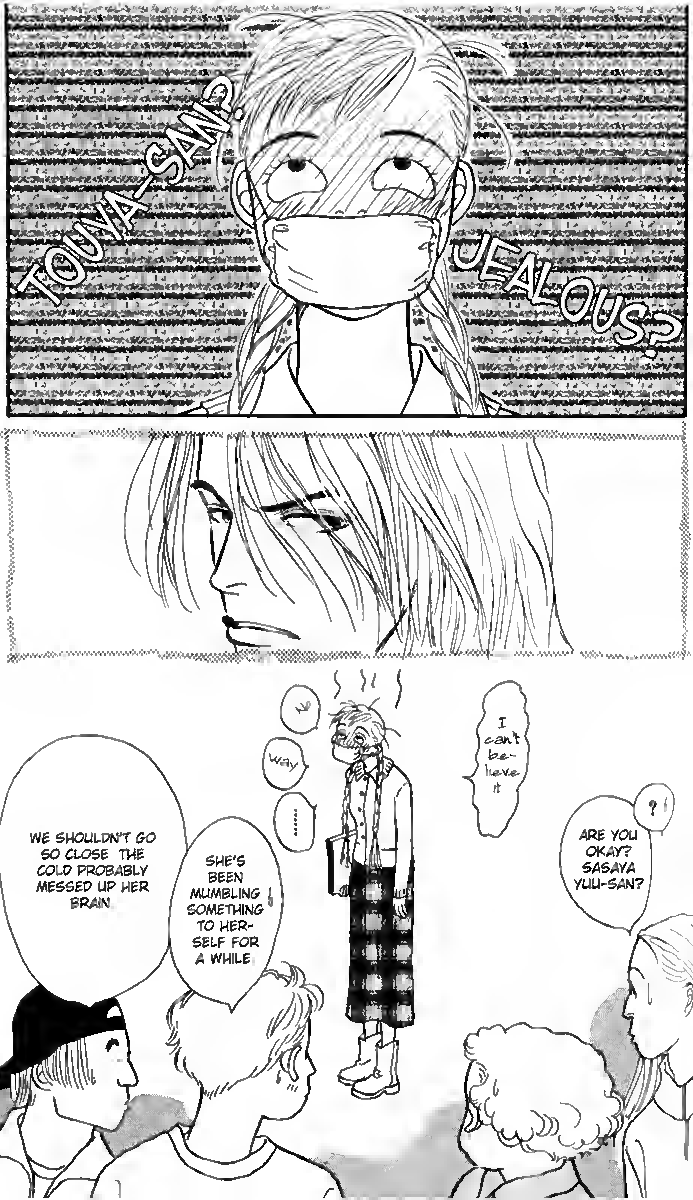
YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT IF YOU GO OUT WITH HIM. THE GUY CAN'T STAND COMING IN SECOND PLACE
Unbelievable
Do you realize what you just said?
Uh-
Chee
LIKE ROMANTI- CALLY?!
Eh?
JEALOUSY?
Eh?
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
Y...
YOU DON'T SAY.
G...
...out... with him?


TOUYA-SAN?
JEALOUS?
I can't believe it
WOW
.....
ARE YOU OKAY? SASAYA YUU-SAN?
?!
SHE'S BEEN MUMBLING SOMETHING TO HERSELF FOR A WHILE
WE SHOULDN'T GO SO CLOSE THE COLD PROBABLY MESSED UP HER BRAIN

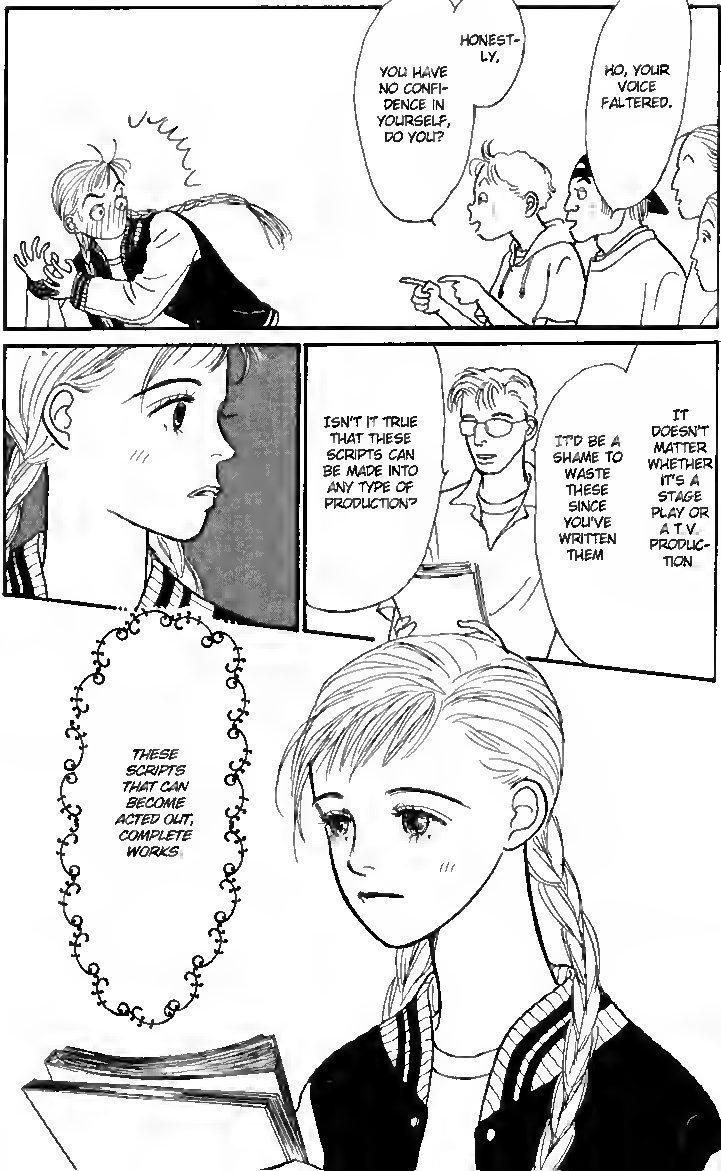
YOU WROTE ALL THESE?
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS...?
AFTER WATCHING MANY PLAYS, MY INSPIRATION WAS BOOSTED
BEFORE I REALIZED, THERE WAS A STACK OF SCRIPTS IN FRONT OF ME.

I KNOW THAT WE CAN'T MAKE A PLAY OUT OF EVERYONE OF THEM. BUT IF I DIDN'T LET THOSE BABIES SWARMING ABOUT INSIDE MY HEAD OUT ONTO PAPER, IT'D HAVE BECOME TOO CROWDED IN THERE.

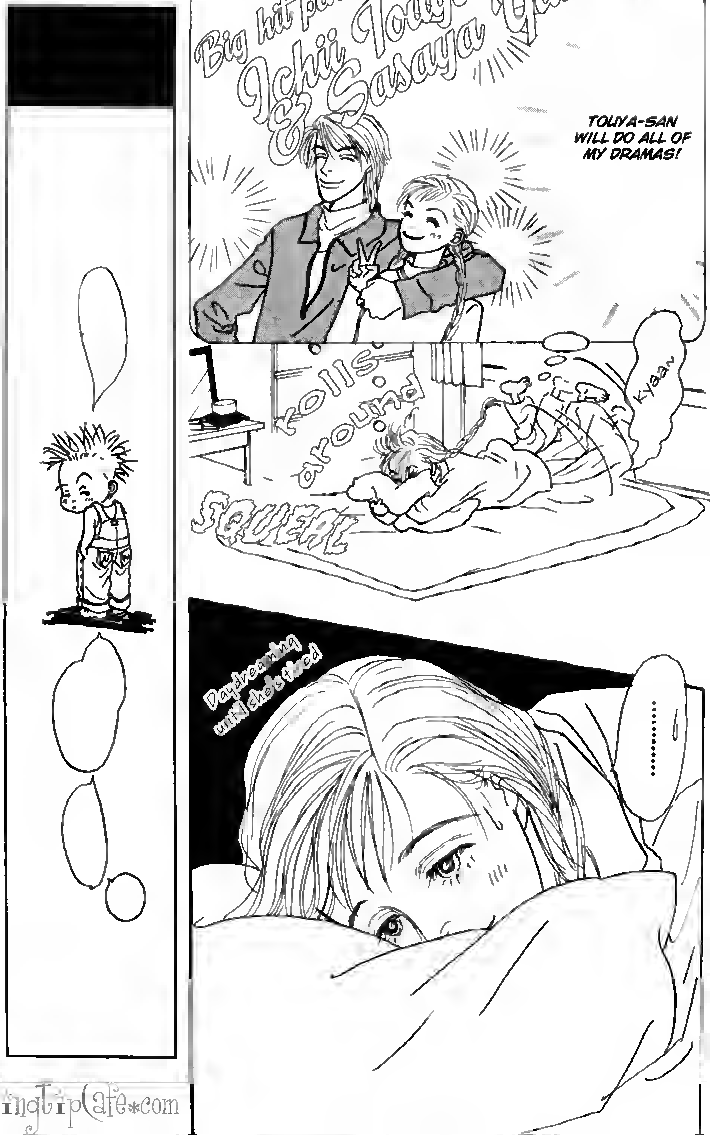
CROWDED?
Yes
THEY WERE MAKING A RUCKUS IN MY HEAD
SAYING "LET ME OUT"
"HURRY UP AND TURN ME INTO A PLAY"

.....
THOSE IDEAS KICKED AND SCREAMED LIKE THAT
EH?
WELL, WHICH OF THESE SCRIPTS DO YOU HAVE THE MOST CONFIDENCE IN?
STV IS HOLDING A SCREENPLAY CONTEST. WHY DON'T YOU PARTICIPATE? MAYBE YOU'LL GET THE PRIZE MONEY.

STV?
OHH...
THEY HOLD A BIG CONTEST EVERY YEAR. WHOEVER WINS FIRST PLACE GETS THEIR SCRIPT MADE INTO A SPECIAL T.V. DRAMA TO BE AIRED DURING PRIME TIME. IT'S QUITE PRESTIGIOUS
TONS OF PEOPLE SUBMIT THEIR WORK BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE WON'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHETHER YOU'RE A PRO OR AN AMATEUR
ARE YOU GOING TO PARTICI-PATE?
Shake
Shake
Shake
I W-WRITE
MY SCRIPTS FOR STAGE PLAYS, NOT FOR T.V. PRODUCTIONS
AND THE PRIZE...
SUCH A THING, TO ME...


HONESTLY.
YOU HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF, DO YOU?
HO, YOUR VOICE FALTERED.
ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THESE SCRIPTS CAN BE MADE INTO ANY TYPE OF PRODUCTION?
IT'D BE A SHAME TO WASTE THESE SINCE YOU'VE WRITTEN THEM
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S A STAGE PLAY OR A T.V. PRODUCTION
THESE SCRIPTS THAT CAN BECOME ACTED OUT, COMPLETE WORKS.

BUT...
IF
IT WORKS
GRANNY,
MY SCRIPT BEING MADE INTO A T V DRAMA IS SOMETHING THAT I HAD NEVER THOUGHT OF BEFORE
MY CONNECTION WITH TOUYA-SAN WILL BE ONE STEP CLOSER
The Screenwriter's Opinion
THE HERO MUST BE PLAYED BY ICHII TOUYA ONLY!!



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GRANNY,
I HAVEN'T SEEN TOLIYA-SAN AGAIN SINCE THAT DAY.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS ABOUT STAGE PLAYS THAT I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH HIM.
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE IN A BAD MOOD TOWARDS ME STILL.
JEALOUS...
IS THAT REALLY POSSIBLE?

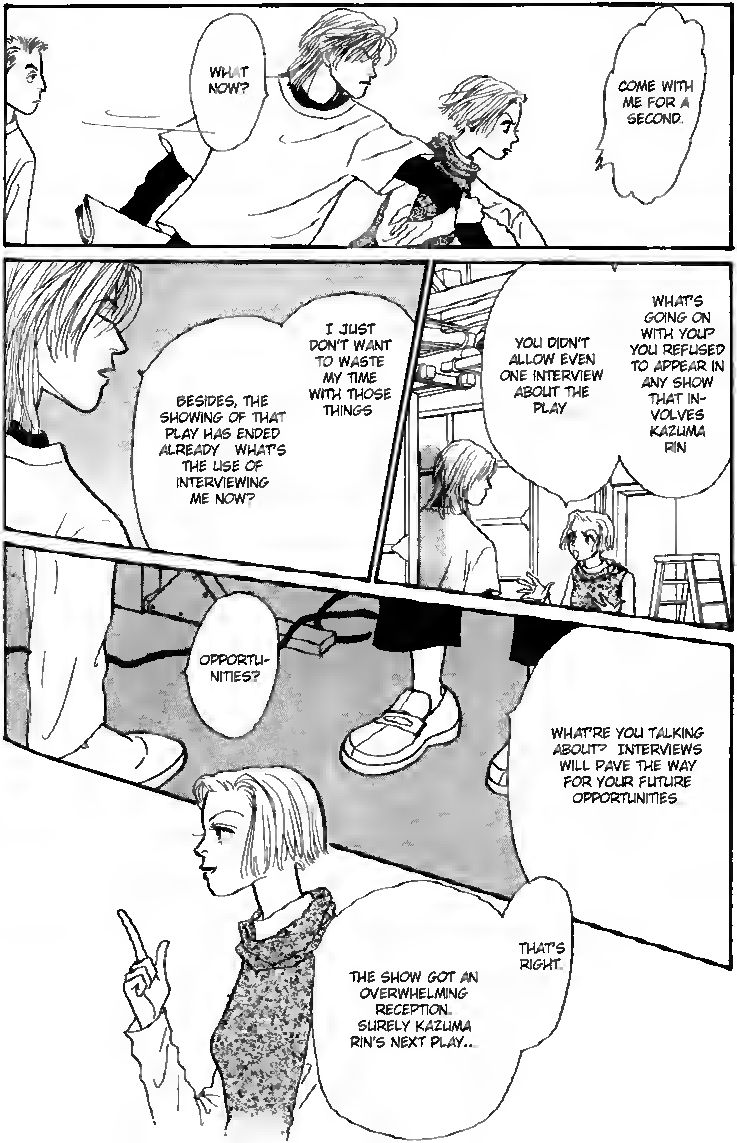
Nuuy
Sure
.....

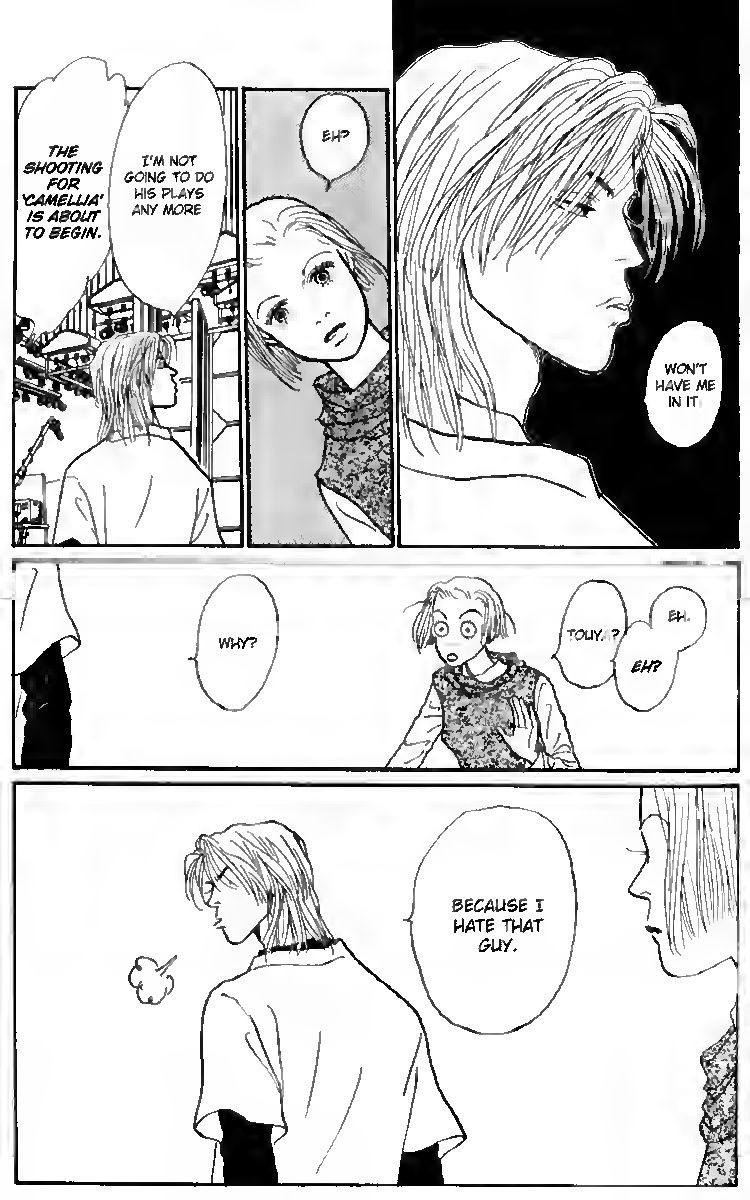
THE SCREENPLAY THAT CHIEF WAS WRITING IS ALREADY DONE. LATELY I HAVE NO EXCUSE TO DROP BY THE T.V. STATION....
sigh

WHICH OF THESE SCRIPTS DO YOU HAVE THE MOST CONFIDENCE IN?

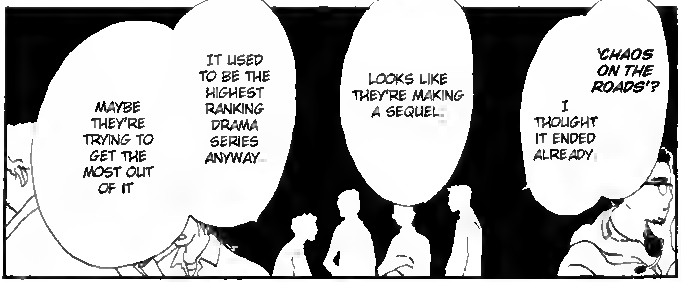
GRANNY...
IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO SUBMIT THE SCRIPT TO THE CONTEST FOR REAL?

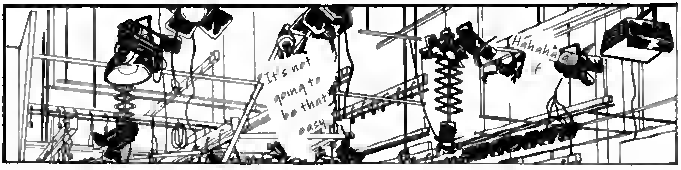
WHAT?
SEEMS SO.
HERE, HAVE YOU READ IT? ALL THE REVIEWS ARE IN F. VOUR OF 'THE BLIGHTED LEAVES'.
DON'T BE THAT NONCHALANT.
.....
SURE,
I'M HAPPY
AREN'T YOU HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS?
YOU TALK LIKE IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK

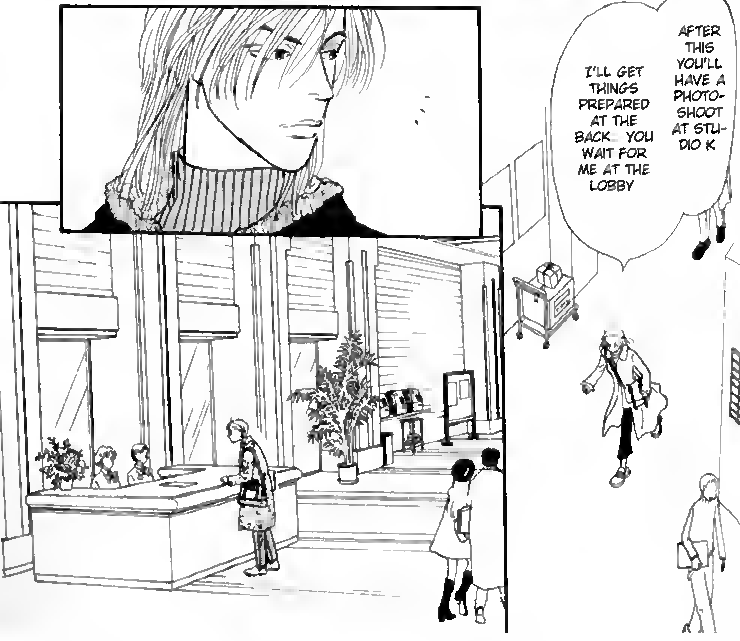

WHAT NOW?
COME WITH ME FOR A SECOND.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO WASTE MY TIME WITH THOSE THINGS
BESIDES, THE SHOWING OF THAT PLAY HAS ENDED ALREADY. WHAT'S THE USE OF INTERVIEWING ME NOW?
YOU DIDN'T ALLOW EVEN ONE INTERVIEW ABOUT THE PLAY
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU? YOU REFUSED TO APPEAR IN ANY SHOW THAT INVOLVES KAZUMA RIN
OPPORTUNITIES?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? INTERVIEWS WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR YOUR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE SHOW GOT AN OVERWHELMING RECEPTION. SURELY KAZUMA RIN'S NEXT PLAY...

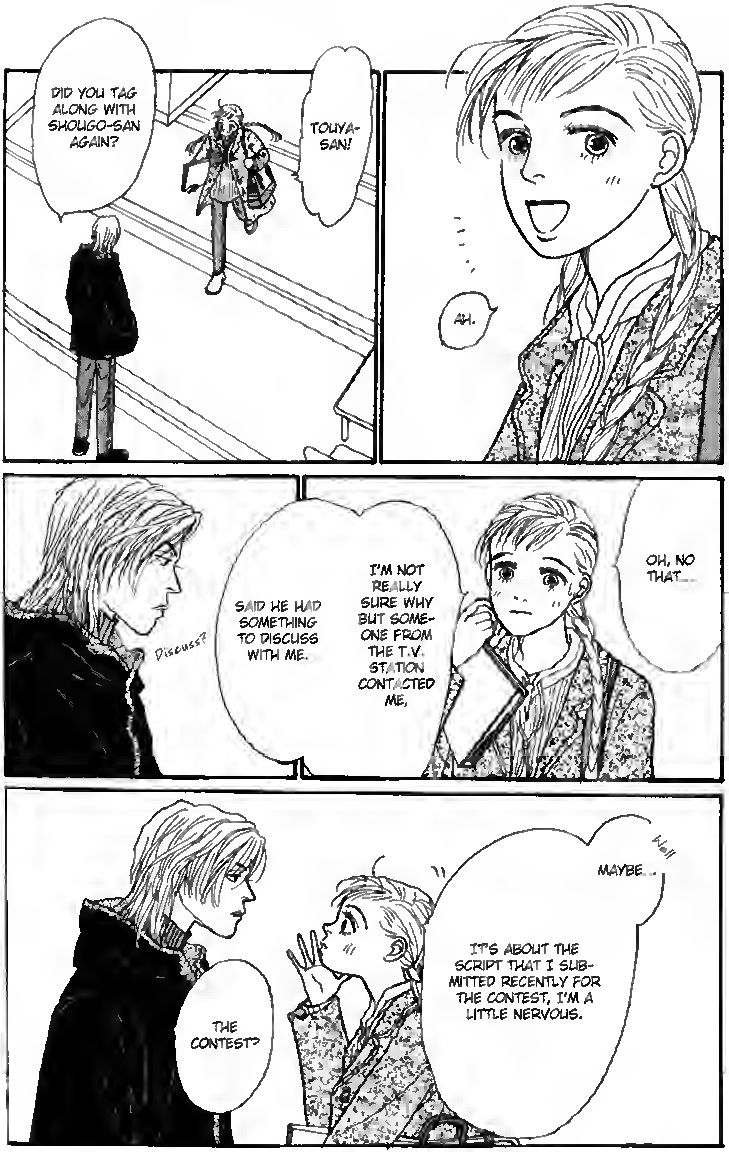

THE SHOOTING FOR 'CAMELLIA' IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
I'M NOT GOING TO DO HIS PLAYS ANY MORE
EH?
WON'T HAVE ME IN IT
WHY?
TOUY..?
EH.
EH?
BECAUSE I HATE THAT GUY.

You're not four years old.
HATE...?
.....
SPEAKING OF KAZUMA, I JUST SAW HIM.
NOPE.
TOUYA, ARE YOU HAVING A FIGHT WITH KAZUMA RIN?
DIDN'T YOU GUYS RESPECT AND PRAISE EACH OTHER SO HIGHLY DURING THE PRODUCTION?
NAITOU-SAN? OH, IT MUST BE ABOUT THAT 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS'
TALKING WITH NAITOU-SAN OF THE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT


MAYBE THEY'RE TRYING TO GET THE MOST OUT OF IT
IT USED TO BE THE HIGHEST RANKING DRAMA SERIES ANYWAY
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE MAKING A SEQUEL
'CHAOS ON THE ROADS'?
I THOUGHT IT ENDED ALREADY


It's not going to be that easy!!
Hahaha


I'LL GET THINGS PREPARED AT THE BACK... YOU WAIT FOR ME AT THE LOBBY
AFTER THIS YOU'LL HAVE A PHOTO-SHOOT AT STU-DIO K


DID YOU TAG ALONG WITH SHOUGO-SAN AGAIN?
TOUYA-SAN!
AH.
OH, NO THAT...
I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHY BUT SOMEONE FROM THE T.V. STATION CONTACTED ME,
SAID HE HAD SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH ME.
Discuss?
Well
MAYBE...
IT'S ABOUT THE SCRIPT THAT I SUBMITTED RECENTLY FOR THE CONTEST, I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS.
THE CONTEST?

WHAT ON EARTH WOULD THEY WANT TO DISCUSS WITH ME?
AND HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT?
THE SCRIPT CONTEST BY STV... NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, THIS IS A DIFFERENT STATION AND I SENT IN THE SCRIPT JUST LAST WEEK.
SO WHAT THIS IS ABOUT I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA...
TOUYA-SAN!
BYE
...YES, THAT'S TRUE.
ERM...
DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME? I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE PLAY THAT WE JUST FINISHED...
I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH FREE TIME.
IT'S BEEN BUSY.

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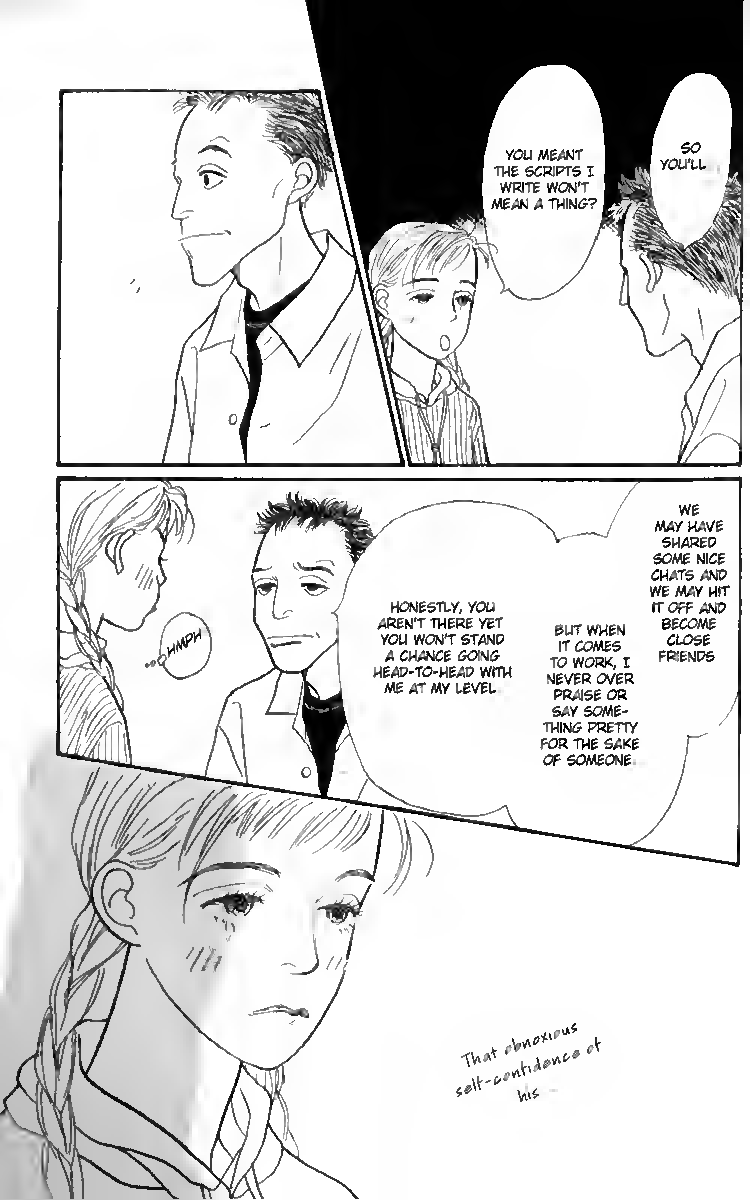
Oh.
I see
Of course
JEALOUS...
I KNEW THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
Hahaha
Chapter
Ahem
BUT IF IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
AH, SASAYA YUU-SAN?
YES!
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, THIS WAY PLEASE
OH, ARE YOU THE NAITOU-SAN WHO CONTACTED ME?
Hmm
Hmm
NAITOU?

SPEAKING OF KAZUMA-SAN, I JUST SAW HIM
TALKING WITH NAITOU-SAN OF THE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT
KAZUMA-SAN..?!
Scrape
HEY!
You can't be serious
NAITOU-SAN!
WHEN YOU SAID THERE WOULD BE ME AND ANOTHER PERSON, YOU MEANT HER?!
Shiver

WHAT A JOKE!
WHAT AN INTERESTING DUO, RIGHT?
How about that?
?
?
Umm...
I'M TO WRITE SCREENPLAYS WITH KAZUMA-SAN?!
YES, THE WORK OF TWO YOUNG SCREENWRITERS
'Chaos on the Roads II'?
And it's

YOU WON'T BE WRITING TOGETHER, AND NOR WILL WE BE COLLATING YOUR SEPARATE WORK, BUT YOU'LL BE WRITING COMPETITIVELY.
YOUR SCRIPTS WILL BE PUT ON AIR, TAKING TURNS FOR A COUPLE OF EPISODES EACH.
WHOSE SCRIPT WILL ATTRACT THE LARGER AUDIENCE? ARE YOU THRILLED YET?
IT'S GOING TO BE SO MUCH FUN
RIDICULOUS
I SAID IT THAT I WON'T INVOLVE MYSELF IN T.V. DRAMAS AND YOU DRAGGED ME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE, AND EVEN GOT THIS GIRL TOO, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.
T-TRUE... UM, WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?
WRITING SCREENPLAYS FOR A GREAT SHOW LIKE THAT?
IT'S FOR PUBLICITY'S SAKE.
PUBLICITY?
PEOPLE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN 'SASAYA YUU', THE SCRIPTWRITER WHO PUT ICHII TOUYA ON STAGE AGAIN, AND IN A FEMALE ROLE TOO
ADD TO THAT THE FACT THAT YOU ARE STILL A COLLEGE KID, YOU'RE QUITE THE SENSATION.
MOREOVER, YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO DIRECT THE PLAY FOR GARANDOU!

HE MAY CLAIM THAT IT'S A DUEL, BUT IN FACT, IT'S TOTALLY GROUNDLESS.
YUU-CHAN, DON'T DO IT.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO DIRTY...
I'M PUTTING MY PRODUCING CAREER ON THE LINE FOR THIS VERY SHOW.
COME ON. THIS IS A BIG RISK FOR ME TOO.
FANCY TALK! YOU MUST HAVE EVERYTHING CALCULATED DOWN TO THE FINEST DETAIL. NO MATTER HOW BADLY IT FALLS, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK UP WITHOUT SO MUCH AS HAVING TO BRUSH YOURSELF OFF.
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY WANT TO BE A MONKEY BEING LED LEFT AND RIGHT BY THEM, RIGHT?
THE REAL PURPOSE IS TO
USE MY SCRIPTS TO GET THE RATINGS WHILE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR NAME THAT'S STILL NEW AS AN ADVERTISEMENT
A... MONKEY?


SO YOU'LL
YOU MEANT THE SCRIPTS I WRITE WON'T MEAN A THING?
WE MAY HAVE SHARED SOME NICE CHATS AND WE MAY HIT IT OFF AND BECOME CLOSE FRIENDS
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO WORK, I NEVER OVER PRAISE OR SAY SOMETHING PRETTY FOR THE SAKE OF SOMEONE
HONESTLY, YOU AREN'T THERE YET YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH ME AT MY LEVEL
HMPH
That obnoxious self-confidence of his

THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY IT.

IT'S OKAY TO BE JUST A DECORATION AT FIRST...
COME ON, YUU-CHAN.
YOU...
BUT THIS MONKEY IS A MONKEY THAT CAN WRITE SCRIPTS

I'LL FIGHT LIKE MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!
YOU'RE GOING TO ACCEPT THE JOB?
GET/

GRANNY,
AT THAT TIME
I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA HOW TOUGH IT WAS GOING TO BE...
ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA AT ALL.

UNIT 29

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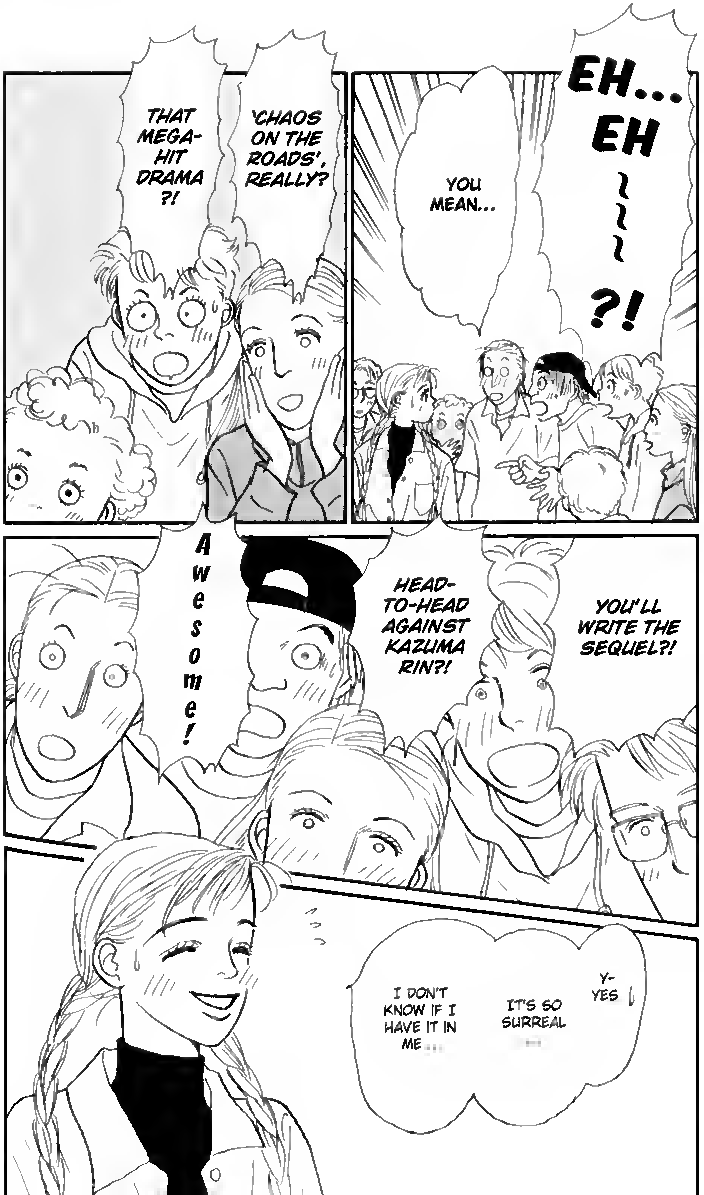
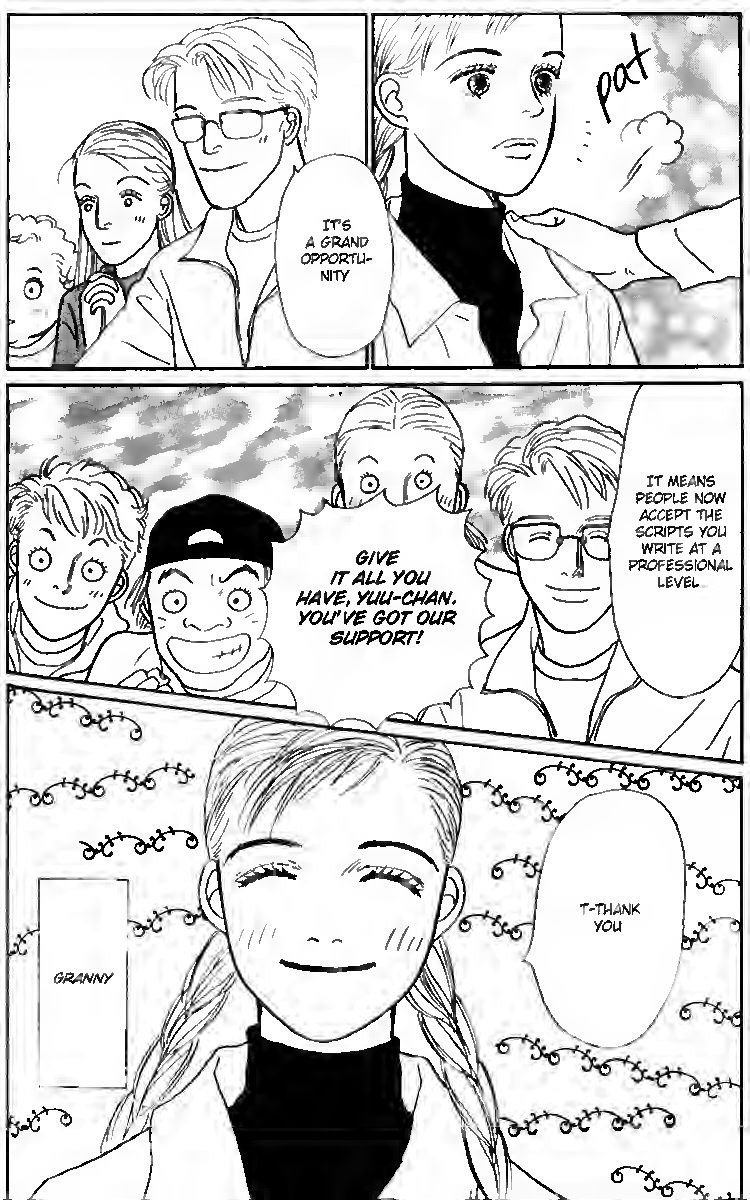

EH... EHHHH?!
YOU MEAN...
'CHAOS ON THE ROADS', REALLY?
THAT MEGA-HIT DRAMA?!
YOU'LL WRITE THE SEQUEL?!
HEAD-TO-HEAD AGAINST KAZUMA RIN?!
Awesome!
Y-YES!
IT'S SO SURREAL...
I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE IT IN ME...

I ALREADY BLURTED OUT "I'LL TAKE THE JOB"
DON'T TELL US YOU DECLINED...
don't be alarmed
Of course, who would throw such golden chance away?
Well done !!
That's our girl!
TRY YOUR BEST, YUU-CHAN WE'LL ROOT FOR YOU
YOU THINK YUU-CHAN WILL LOSE? THIS GIRL ALWAYS GOES FOR THE JUGULAR NO MATTER WHO HER OPPONENT IS
HEY!
BUT TO BE COMPARED AGAINST KAZUMA RIN IS KINDA SEVERE
IT'S AMAZING. TO BE WRITING SCRIPTS FOR 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS II'.
.....
If you need someone for a minor role, think of me


IT'S A GRAND OPPORTUNITY
pat
IT MEANS PEOPLE NOW ACCEPT THE SCRIPTS YOU WRITE AT A PROFESSIONAL LEVEL...
GIVE IT ALL YOU HAVE, YUU-CHAN. YOU'VE GOT OUR SUPPORT!
T-THANK YOU
GRANNY

I'LL TAKE THE JOB.
I FINALLY ACCEPTED THE JOB OF WRITING SCREEN-PLAYS FOR A MEGA-HIT TV DRAMA.
EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE HE SAID THOSE THINGS — 'A MONKEY BEING LED LEFT AND RIGHT'
AND 'YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE' —
KAZUMA-SAN'S WORDS
THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY IT.
THEY KICKED UP MY FIGHTING SPIRIT.

IT'S AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

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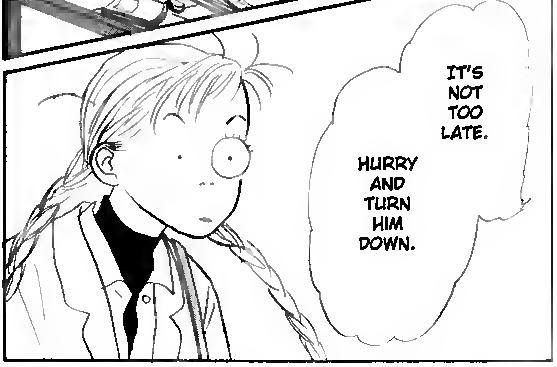

IF IT'S A SIMPLE DRAMA LIKE WHAT EVERYONE DOES, YES.
BUT DIDN'T YOU ACCEPT THE JOB OUT OF STUBBORNNESS? JUST BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T STAND KAZUMA'S INSULTS?
OOPS
bull's eye
W-
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?!
YOU SAID I CAN DO TV DRAMAS, RIGHT?
YOU EVEN URGED ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTEST?
T-TRUE I WAS SO MAD I COULDN'T SEE STRAIGHT RIGHT THEN
BUT THAT WASN'T THE ONLY REASON WHY I ACCEPTED THE JOB THOUGH I DID GET ALL WORKED UP.
I'VE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IT
AS TO WHETHER I CAN PULL IT OFF OR NOT...
WHETHER I REALLY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES, AS PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK...

.....
CHIEF, DO YOU THINK SO TOO?
THAT I'LL NEVER WIN AGAINST KAZUMA-SAN?
WINNING OR LOSING IS THE LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
HOW THIS IS TOTALLY, COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE SCRIPTS YOU'VE WRITTEN, FOR COLLEAGUES YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH, TO BE PLAYED ON STAGE BY A MINOR COMPANY?
THIS TIME YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW YOUR SCRIPT WILL BE PLAYED OUT, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, BY ALL KINDS OF ACTORS YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW. ALL OF THEM ARE BIG NAMES AND A PAIN TO DEAL WITH.
THINK IT OVER WITH A COOL HEAD. YOU'RE JUST A PLAYWRIGHT ROOKIE WHOSE NAME JUST EMERGED IN THE CIRCLE. YOUR REPUTATION'S UNKNOWN. A MERE BABY CHICK.

I'VE GIVEN MY WORD THAT I'LL DO THIS JOB. WHEN SOMEONE HANDS ME A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY, I FEEL THAT I SHOULD CARRY IT OUT AS BEST AS I CAN.
Yeah
It's better than a monkey, right?
...SO I'M A BABY CHICK THIS TIME.
CHIEF . .
A WHILE AGO, WHEN TOLIYA-SAN FIRST BEGAN WORKING IN THE TV SHOW BUSINESS,
HE ALSO RAN INTO MANY BIG OBSTACLES.

I'D LIKE TO FOLLOW HIS FOOTSTEPS AS WELL!
BUT TOUYA-SAN PULLED THROUGH.
YEAH, I GUESS.
I SEE
ALL KINDS OF EXPERIENCES ARE GOOD FERTILIZER FOR LIFE LEARNING, RIGHT?
THEN DO YOUR BEST
...YES

Give it your best shot!
'Atta girl!
WHAT WAS THAT? I THOUGHT CHIEF WOULD BE THRILLED AND CONGRATULATE ME.
thump
thump
thump
thump
OR PERHAPS I REALLY MADE THE DECISION TOO HASTILY..?
Congratulations!

I HEARD THE GOOD NEWS. 'ATTA GIRL!
LOOK, I BROUGHT CHAMPAGNE.
LET'S PARTY!
MAKI-SAN
shoves stuff aside
AH.
You can sit over there.
MY! THESE LOOK SERIOUS.
OH, 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS' VIDEOTAPES THAT I BORROWED FROM THE TV STATION AND SOME REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR MY SCRIPT.
AND WHAT'S ALL THIS?
BOURGO

UNFORGIVABLE!!
EXACTLY.
THAT'SSSS RIGHT CALLING ME 'MONKEY' WAS WAY OUT OF LINE AND HE SAID 'I'LL NEVERRRR STAND A CHANCE'.
hic
hic
WHADAYA SAY? THAT JERK KAZUMA TRASH TALKED YOU?
HUH?
hic
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAAAIN!
Drink
SASAYA YUU, YOU CAN'T LOSE TO THAT JERK!
YEAHH!
DRINK UP!
You'll write a script sooooo fabulous that'll stun Kazuma Rin.

RRRRRR
zzz
reach
reach
RRR
hic
'ELLO?
IT'S ME
'ELLO?

TOUYA-SAN!
WHAT HAPPENED? CALLING ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LIKE THIS.
THIS VOICE
WERE YOU SLEEPING?
I HAD A SHOOTING AND JUST CAME BACK.
IT SEEMS THAT YOU DIDN'T TURN THEM DOWN.
TURN WHAT DOWN?
THE SCREENPLAY FOR 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS II', WHAT ELSE?!

H HEY, DID YOU EVEN HEAR WHAT I SAID?
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
TOUYA-SAN IS CHEERING ME ON TOO?
YEA---H
LISTEN TO ME. EVERYTHING KAZUMA-SAN SAID WAS TRUE.
YOU...
YEAH, KAZUMA RIN'S WORDS WEREN'T VERY NICE
BUT I'M NOT GONNA GIVE UP
BECAUSE IT'S THE PATH THAT TOUYA-SAN HAD FOUGHT ON AND OVERCOME
the same one

WHEN YOU FIRST QUIT STAGE PLAYS AND BEGAN WORKING ON TV SHOWS...
I STILL REMEMBER HOW LOST YOU LOOKED AND WHEN YOU SAID THAT IT WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD.
BUT...
TOUYA-SAN DIDN'T GIVE UP.

I...
BECAUSE IT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD,
WE'RE ABLE TO LEARN NEW THINGS AND CHALLENGE OURSELVES.
...WILL FOLLOW TOLYA-SAN'S FOOTSTEPS
I MAY NOT BE CONFIDENT
AND IT'S PROBABLY A RASH DECISION BUT I'D LIKE TO TEST MYSELF AND SEE HOW FAR I CAN GO.

UMM
TOUYA-SAN GAVE ME AN ENCOURAGING PHONE CALL
IT'S OKAY. MANY PEOPLE ARE CHEERING ME ON
PLUS...
I'M SO HAPPY
THANK YOU...
UHH
HEY?

.....
HELLO?!
HEY!
Z...zzz
Z...zzz
Z...zzz
Z...zzz
CHAPS

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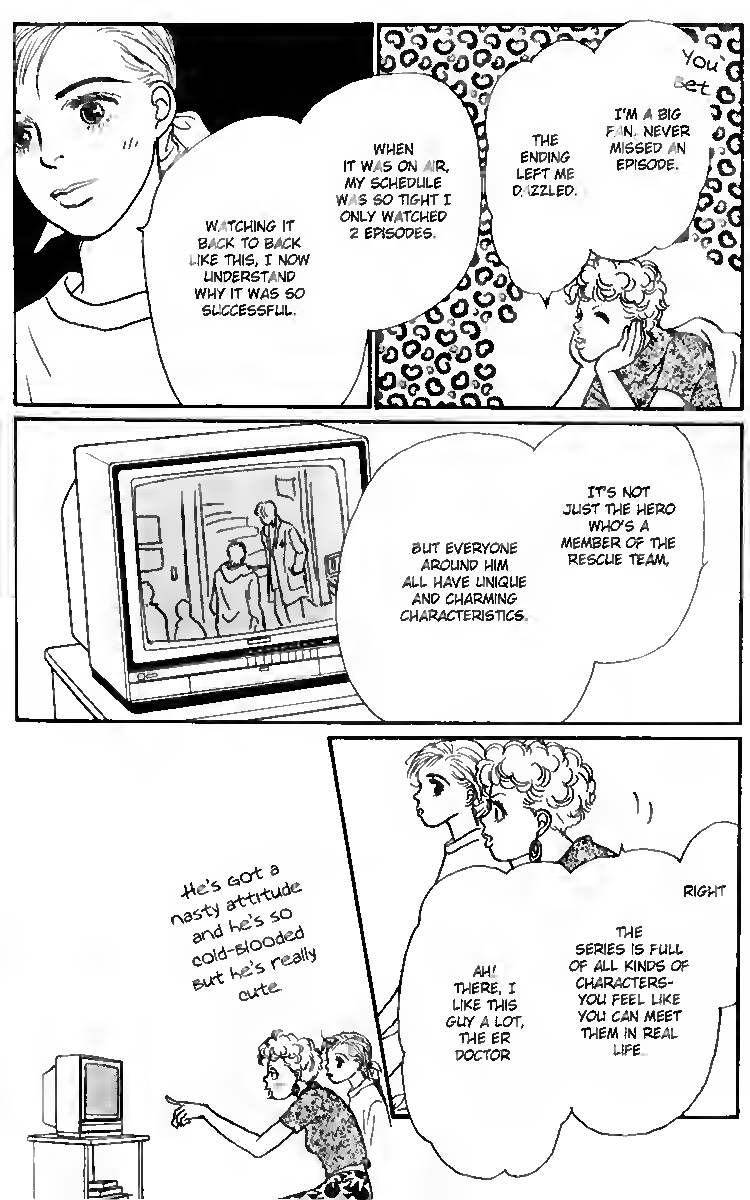
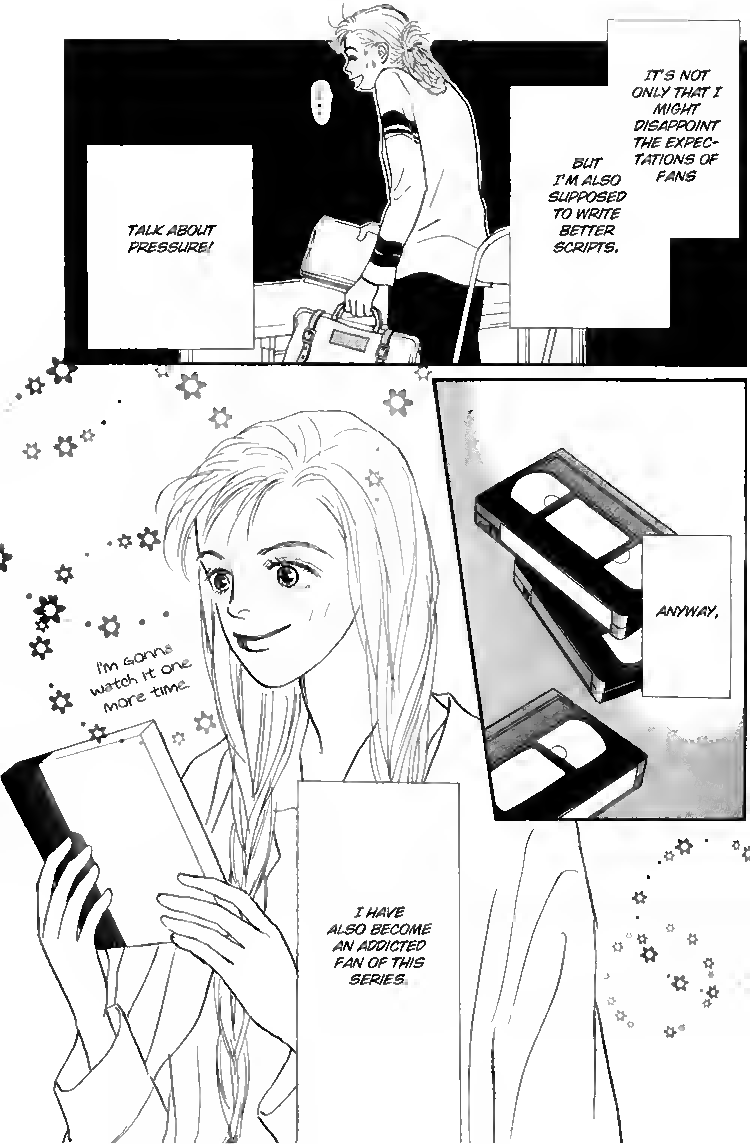
HE URGED ME ON.
I think you mean!
LAST NIGHT TOUYA-SAN CALLED TO GIVE ME COURAGE.
?
I CAN STILL HEAR HIS VOICE IN MY EAR.
Oh yeah?
IT WASN'T A DREAM.
I guarantee it.
HUH?
MAKI-SAN, HAVE YOU WATCHED 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS' BEFORE?
Ha ha
Hmm, no wonder you're all perked up.
SHE MUST HAVE DRUNK HERSELF WAY OVER THE LIMIT LAST NIGHT.
.....

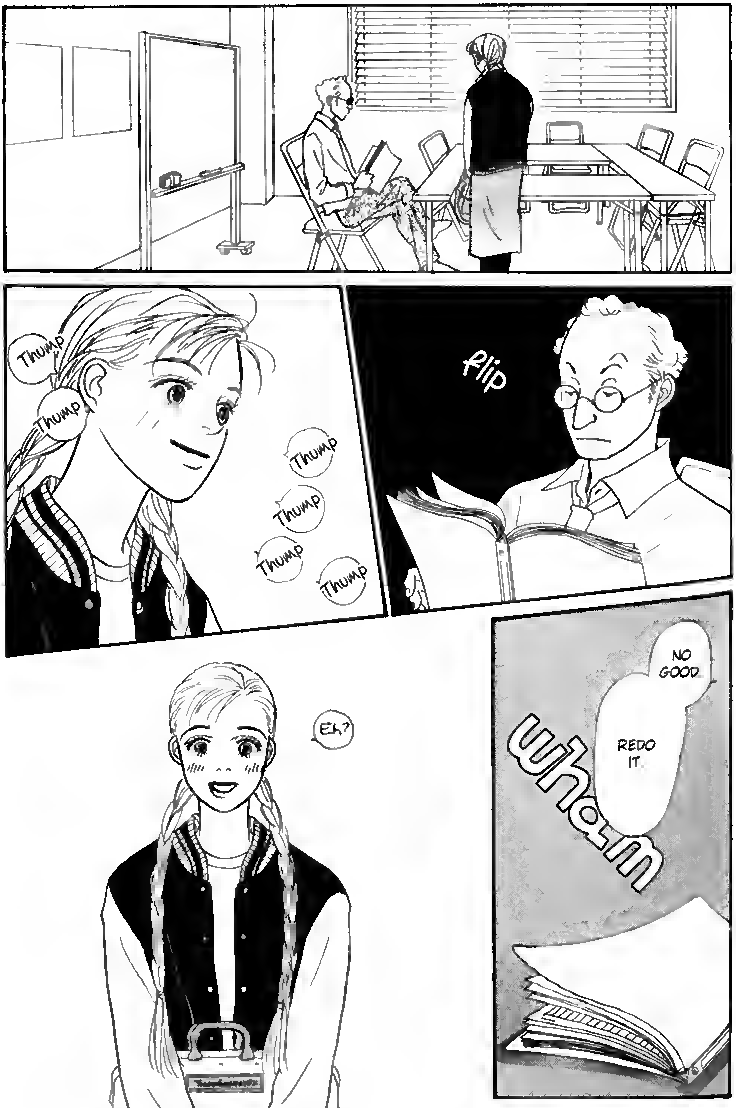

WATCHING IT BACK TO BACK LIKE THIS, I NOW UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL.
WHEN IT WAS ON AIR, MY SCHEDULE WAS SO TIGHT I ONLY WATCHED 2 EPISODES.
THE ENDING LEFT ME DIZZLED.
I'M A BIG FAN. NEVER MISSED AN EPISODE.
You bet
BUT EVERYONE AROUND HIM ALL HAVE UNIQUE AND CHARMING CHARACTERISTICS.
IT'S NOT JUST THE HERO WHO'S A MEMBER OF THE RESCUE TEAM,
AH! THERE, I LIKE THIS GUY A LOT, THE ER DOCTOR
THE SERIES IS FULL OF ALL KINDS OF CHARACTERS- YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN MEET THEM IN REAL LIFE.
RIGHT
He's got a nasty attitude and he's so cold-blooded but he's really cute.

I READ FROM AN ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE, THAT THE GUY SAID IT'S AGAINST HIS PRINCIPLE TO BUILD A SEQUEL BASED ON THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST.
HOW COULD THEY HAVE WANTED TO REPLACE THE PERSON WHO WROTE SUCH AN INCREDIBLE SCRIPT LIKE THIS?
Ah!
NO ONE KNOWS WHICH VERSION IS TRUE.
BUT RUMORS FROM THE SHOWBIZ CIRCLE SAY HE HAD A FIGHT WITH ONE OF THE ACTORS.
LET ME WATCH IT AGAIN. ONE MORE TIME.
THE SCENE JUST NOW, I LOVE IT SO MUCH!
EH?
GO BACK, GO BACK!

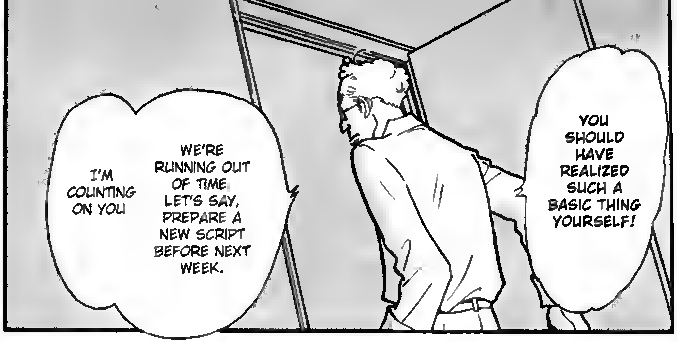
A TOUGH JOB INDEED
APART FROM BEING A MEGA-HIT DRAMA,
IT HAS A TON OF DIE-HARD FANS
I LOVE THE PLOT IN EPISODE 3 THE MOST.
EH?
BUT I THINK EPISODE 5 IS MUCH BETTER.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS A SPECIAL EPISODE.
GRANNY,
THIS IS GOING TO BE ..

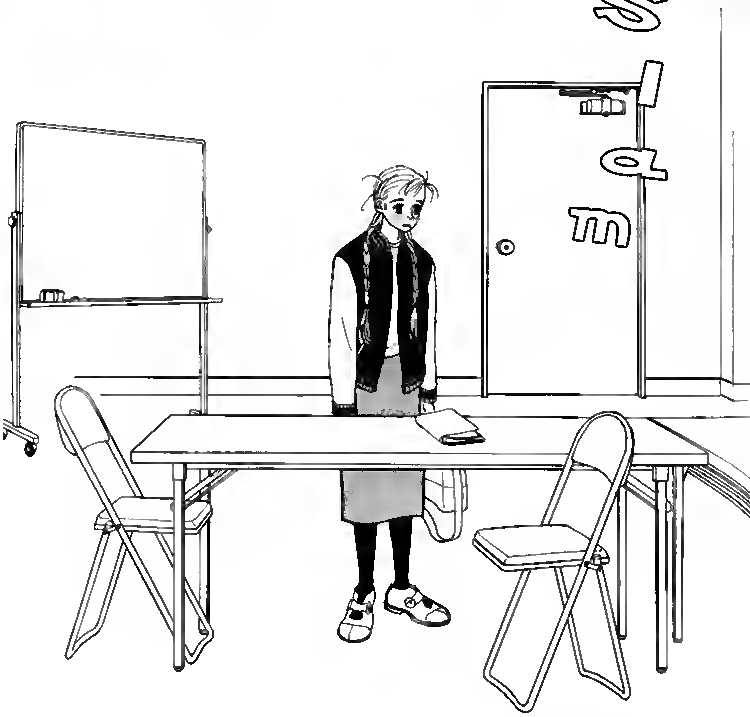

!
TALK ABOUT PRESSURE!
IT'S NOT ONLY THAT I MIGHT DISAPPOINT THE EXPECTATIONS OF FANS
BUT I'M ALSO SUPPOSED TO WRITE BETTER SCRIPTS.
ANYWAY,
I'm gonna watch it one more time.
I HAVE ALSO BECOME AN ADDICTED FAN OF THIS SERIES.

IT FEELS LIKE WAITING FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER OF A MANGA.
THERE ARE SO MANY IDEAS SWARMING AROUND INSIDE MY HEAD.
IT'D BE INTERESTING IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE LIKE THAT OR THIS.
It's fun, right?
See?
AT THIS RATE, SASAYA YUU
IS UNSTOP-PABLE!


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
FLIP
NO GOOD.
REDO IT.
WHAM
EH?

I THOUGHT I WROTE MY BEST SCRIPT THIS TIME
W-WHAT PART DOESN'T WORK?
It's not good?
WHICH PART? THE PROBLEM IS THE SCRIPT'S VIABILITY.
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ONE OF OUR SPONSORS IS SENTOSHI WHISKY
?
AND?
THERE IS NO "AND?". IN YOUR SHOW, A MAN SNEAKED A DRINK DURING HIS PART-TIME JOB THEN HE WAS HIT AND FELL DOWN. RIGHT AFTER THAT, IT'LL CUT TO A COMMERCIAL FOR A WHISKY!
WHAT SORT OF MESSAGE ARE YOU SENDING TO THE AUDIENCE?
Ah


YOU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED SUCH A BASIC THING YOURSELF!
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. LET'S SAY, PREPARE A NEW SCRIPT BEFORE NEXT WEEK.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU



Ashita no Ousama UNIT 29 - END

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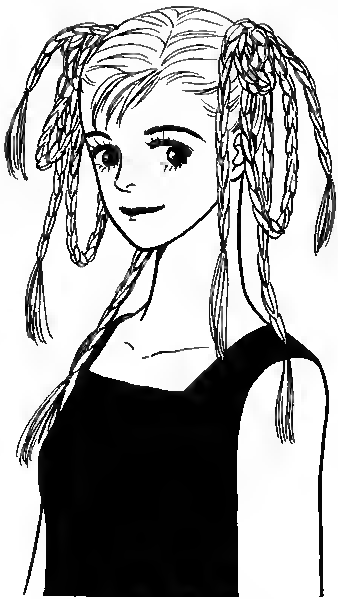
ASHITA NO OUSAMA
UNIT 30



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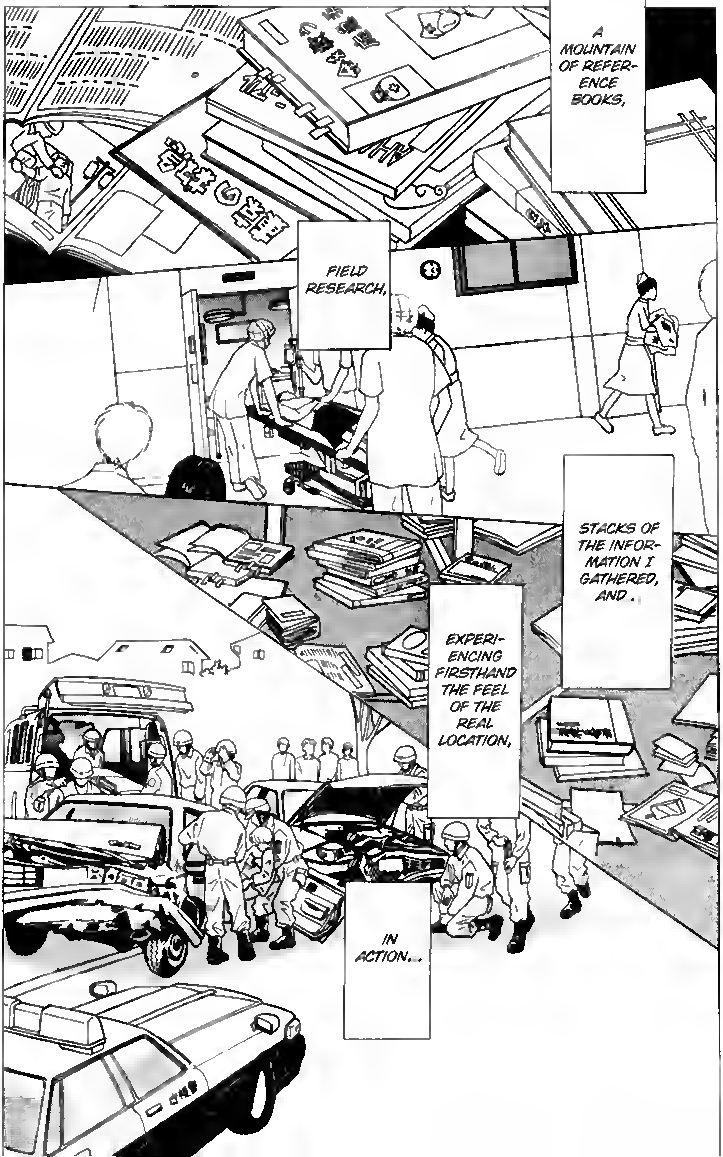
Chaos on the Roads
THE SEQUEL OF A MEGA-HIT TV SERIES.
THE HERO IS A PARA-MEDIC ON AN AMBU-LANCE TEAM
AND THERE IS AN E.R. DOCTOR WHO CONSTANTLY CLASHES WITH HIM.
IN ORDER TO BUILD THIS DRAMA, FIRST AND FOREMOST, YOU NEED TO KNOW THEIR WORLD BY HEART


A MOUNTAIN OF REFERENCE BOOKS,
FIELD RESEARCH,
STACKS OF THE INFORMATION I GATHERED, AND...
EXPERIENCING FIRSTHAND THE FEEL OF THE REAL LOCATION,
IN ACTION...

REDO IT!
OF COURSE, WE HAVE THE SPONSORS TO THINK ABOUT!
THE SCRIPT WAS DONE, FINALLY.
Sirens wailing
YEAH... THE SPONSORS.
SHIVER
SHIVER
fwip

GRANNY,
Step
Sirens wailing
Turn him down.
SCRIPTWRITING DOESN'T HAVE ONE FIXED FORMULA WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE CHANGES DEPENDING ON WHAT YOU'RE DOING. SOMETHING MIGHT WORK IN THEATER, BUT WOULD NOT WORK FOR TV. I JUST LEARNT THAT.
I'LL REDO IT ONE MORE TIME,
Don't do it.
I'LL SHOW THEM!
HMPH!

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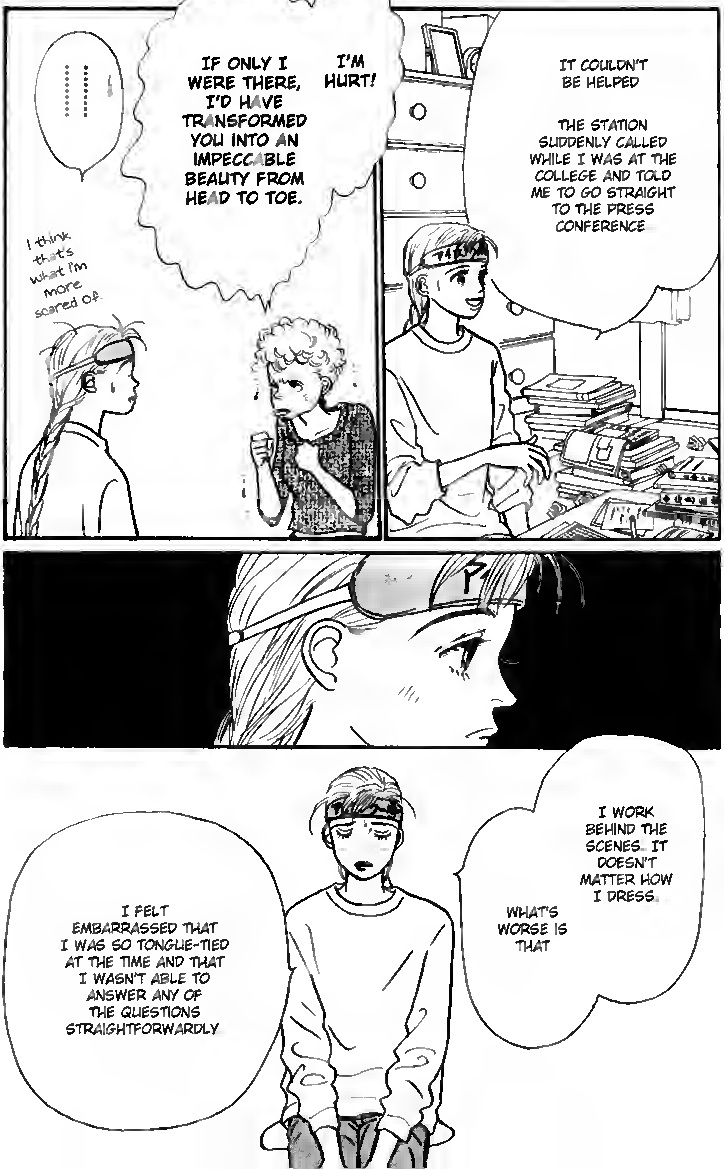
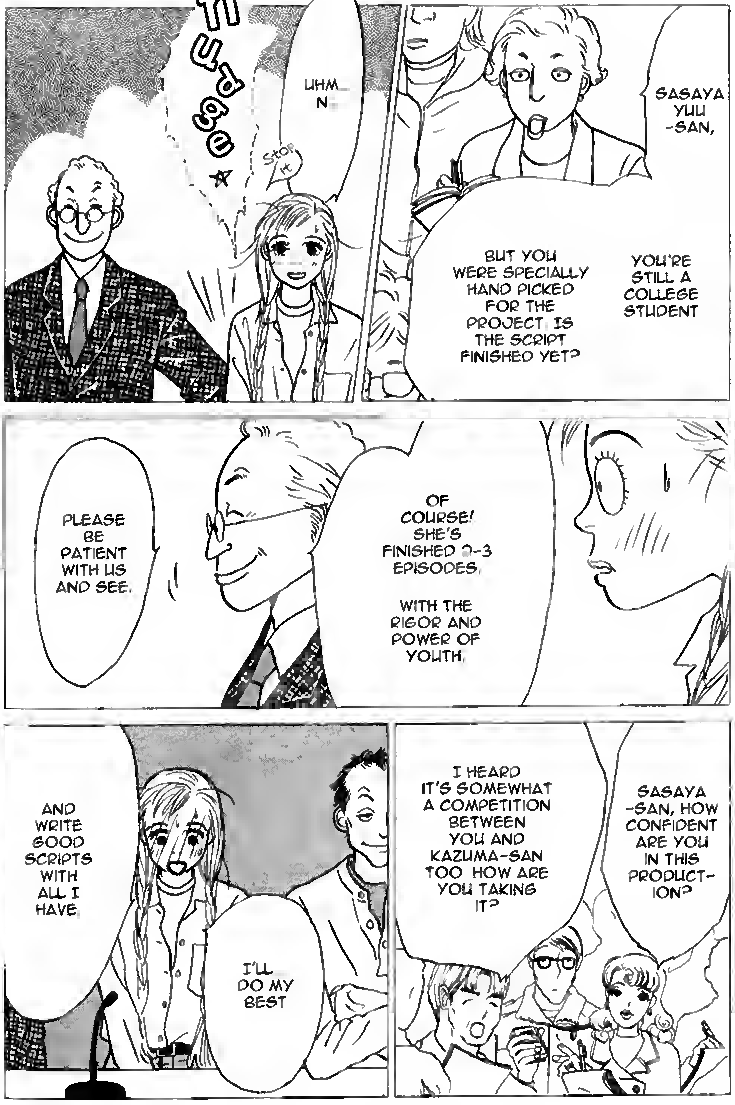
ANYONE HOME? WHAT'S ALL THIS?!!
BANG
COOL LIFE
TIME IS SCARCE
I HAVE TO FINISH THIS BY TOMORROW.
YOUR LOOK HORRIBLE
SEEMS LIKE THE STACKS OF BOOKS ARE GETTING TALLER EACH TIME..

WELL, I UNDERSTAND YOUR PASSION
BECAUSE IT'S A MEDICAL DRAMA, THERE MUST BE NO MISTAKES
YUP, NO MISTAKES
WRITE
WRITE
BANG
BUT EVEN SO, COULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE A LITTLE BETTER
At the official press conference of the drama?!
JTV
CHAOS ON THE ROADS part2
Press Conference

YOU BET!
IT'S BEEN IN THE ENTERTAINMENT NEWS IN THE MORNING, AFTERNOON AND EVENING. OVER AND OVER!!
AH..
MAKI-SAN WATCHED IT TOO?
Y...
Y...
YOU.
AND MY DAD MADE A SUDDEN LONG-DISTANCE CALL
MY FRIENDS AT THE TROUPE WERE TEASING ME.
SO MANY PEOPLE WATCHED IT.
GOSH... A MEGA EVENT AND YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT. MESSY HAIR, BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES, NO MAKE-UP, AND SUCH BORING CLOTHES!!
Of course! It was a press conference announcing the production of a mega-hit TV series' sequel on a nation-wide network!

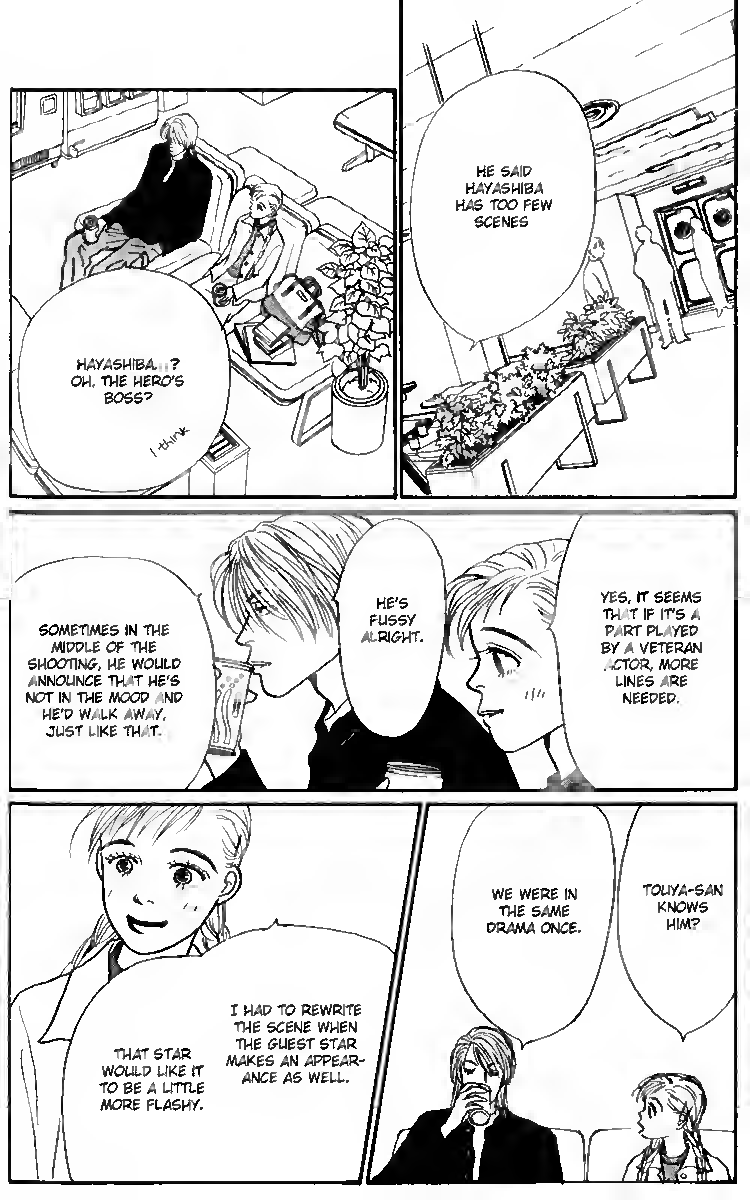

IT COULDN'T BE HELPED
THE STATION SUDDENLY CALLED WHILE I WAS AT THE COLLEGE AND TOLD ME TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE
I'M HURT!
IF ONLY I WERE THERE, I'D HAVE TRANSFORMED YOU INTO AN IMPECCABLE BEAUTY FROM HEAD TO TOE.
I think that's what I'm more scared of.
I WORK BEHIND THE SCENES. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW I DRESS.
WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT
I FELT EMBARRASSED THAT I WAS SO TONGUE-TIED AT THE TIME AND THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO ANSWER ANY OF THE QUESTIONS STRAIGHTFORWARDLY


Fudge ☆
UHM...
SASAYA YUU -SAN,
YOU'RE STILL A COLLEGE STUDENT
BUT YOU WERE SPECIALLY HAND PICKED FOR THE PROJECT. IS THE SCRIPT FINISHED YET?
OF COURSE! SHE'S FINISHED 2-3 EPISODES.
WITH THE RIGOR AND POWER OF YOUTH.
PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH US AND SEE.
I HEARD IT'S SOMEWHAT A COMPETITION BETWEEN YOU AND KAZUMA-SAN TOO. HOW ARE YOU TAKING IT?
SASAYA -SAN, HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU IN THIS PRODUCTION?
I'LL DO MY BEST
AND WRITE GOOD SCRIPTS WITH ALL I HAVE.

SHE'S FINISHED 2-3 OF EPISODES
THE PERSON WHO HAS FINISHED 2-3 EPISODES IS KAZUMA-SAN
WHILE I'VE COMPLETED NONE
From what they said

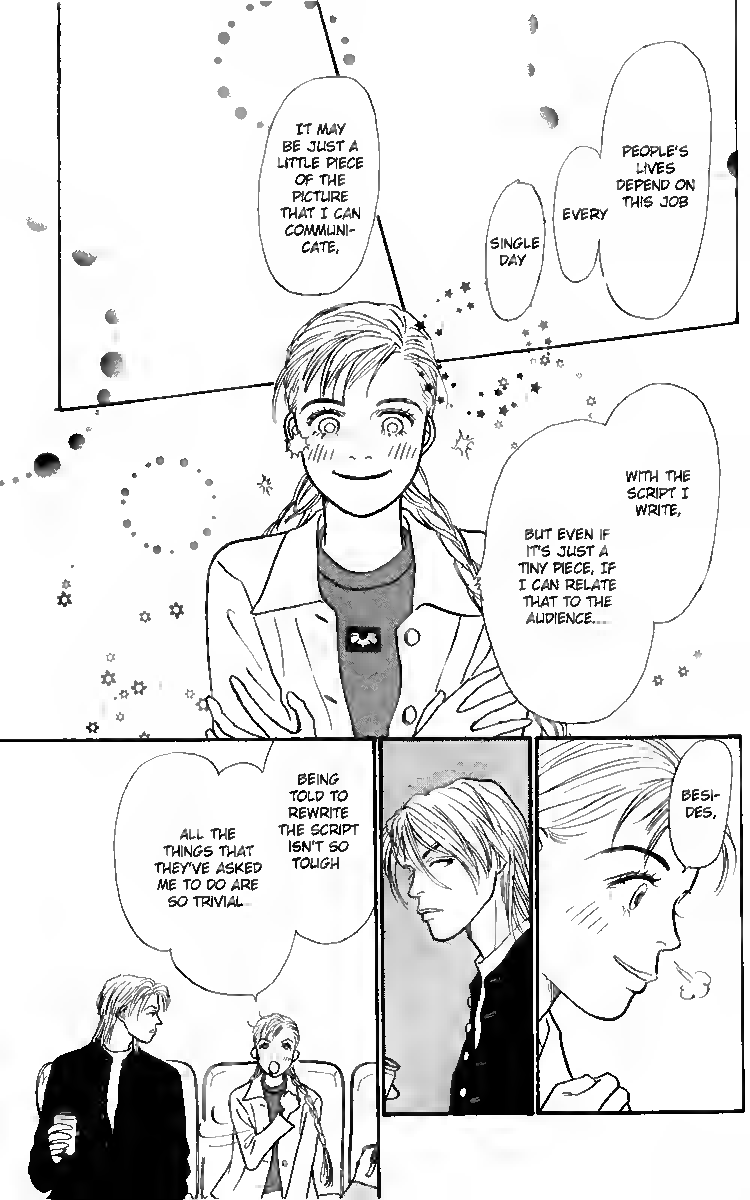
I WOULDN'T DREAM THAT IT'D BE ACCEPTED AT THE FIRST TRY.
ha ha
Actually she did.
REWRITING ISN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL
clatter
clatter
First aid guide
Emergency nursing
oops

TOUYA-SAN...
A "FIRST AID GUIDE" AND AN "EMERGENCY NURSING MANUAL"
They sure aren't light!
Nursing
MY REFERENCE MATERIALS. I JUST CAME STRAIGHT FROM THE LIBRARY.
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR SCRIPT?
Oops
I WAS TOLD TO REVISE AND REVISE
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME ALREADY.
.....


HE SAID HAYASHIBA HAS TOO FEW SCENES
HAYASHIBA...? OH, THE HERO'S BOSS?
I think
YES, IT SEEMS THAT IF IT'S A PART PLAYED BY A VETERAN ACTOR, MORE LINES ARE NEEDED.
HE'S FUSSY ALRIGHT.
SOMETIMES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SHOOTING, HE WOULD ANNOUNCE THAT HE'S NOT IN THE MOOD AND HE'D WALK AWAY, JUST LIKE THAT.
TOUYA-SAN KNOWS HIM?
WE WERE IN THE SAME DRAMA ONCE.
I HAD TO REWRITE THE SCENE WHEN THE GUEST STAR MAKES AN APPEARANCE AS WELL.
THAT STAR WOULD LIKE IT TO BE A LITTLE MORE FLASHY.

BUT
I'D LIKE TO HAVE EVERYONE ENJOY WORKING IN IT.
YOU'LL HAVE NO END TRYING TO PLEASE EVERYONE'S DEMANDS.
And yet
YOU WERE TOLD TO REVISE OVER AND OVER UNTIL YOUR EYES ARE BECOMING LIKE A PANDA'S, BUT YOU DON'T LOOK DISCOURAGED ONE BIT.

I'VE READ VARIOUS ARTICLES TO HELP MY SCRIPT WRITING
AND I'VE ALSO MET MANY PEOPLE FROM MY FIELD RESEARCH.
IN MY HEAD, I THOUGHT I HAD A GOOD GRASP OF EVERYTHING,
BUT WHEN I WAS AT THE SCENE FOR REAL, I REALIZED THAT WHAT I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD WAS JUST AN ILLUSION


IT MAY BE JUST A LITTLE PIECE OF THE PICTURE THAT I CAN COMMUNI-CATE,
SINGLE DAY
EVERY
PEOPLE'S LIVES DEPEND ON THIS JOB
WITH THE SCRIPT I WRITE,
BUT EVEN IF IT'S JUST A TINY PIECE, IF I CAN RELATE THAT TO THE AUDIENCE...
ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY'VE ASKED ME TO DO ARE SO TRIVIAL
BEING TOLD TO REWRITE THE SCRIPT ISN'T SO TOUGH
BESI-DES,

WHY? BECAUSE NEVER ONCE, WAS I TOLD TO EDIT THE PLOT THAT I WROTE
IT MEANS MY PLOT WORKS
TEE HEE
YOU'RE STILL FULL OF POWER AS USUAL

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IF I DON'T KEEP TELLING ME MYSELF SUCH THINGS,
IF I DON'T STAY POSITIVE,
ha ha
RIGHT
WHO'S SASAYA YUU?
BIG RISK FOR JTV
CHAOS ON THE BOAT'S
I'D SHRINK TO THE SIZE OF A PEA

PRESSURE
ahhh ahh
"I WANT TO CHALLENGE THIS NEW WORLD OF TV SCRIPTWRITING"
"AND TEST MY POTENTIAL"
... I DID SAY THOSE WORDS OUT LOUD ...
cry cry
I CAN'T SHOW MY DISHEARTENED FACE TO PEOPLE

SO WE'RE VERY PRESSED FOR TIME RIGHT NOW. LET'S SAY WE'LL HAVE MOTOMIYA-SAN HERE REWRITE A VIABLE SCRIPT FOR THE PRODUCTION WITH YOUR SCRIPT AS A BASE
EH?
MOTOMIYA-SAN IS A SEASONED SCRIPTWRITER AND HAS BEEN AROUND THE ENTERTAINMENT CIRCUIT FOR A LONG TIME.
RIIP
SURE, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
UH, UHM, UHH
OH DON'T WORRY. WE'LL STILL CREDIT YOU ON THE SCREEN.
MOTOMIYA-SAN, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU. GET IT DONE BY TOMORROW.
OKAY

Please wait!
IT'S MY SCRIPT. I'VE MANAGED TO REVISE EVERYTHING YOU'VE REQUESTED UP TIL NOW.
PLEASE TELL ME EXACTLY WHERE IT DOESN'T WORK. GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE.

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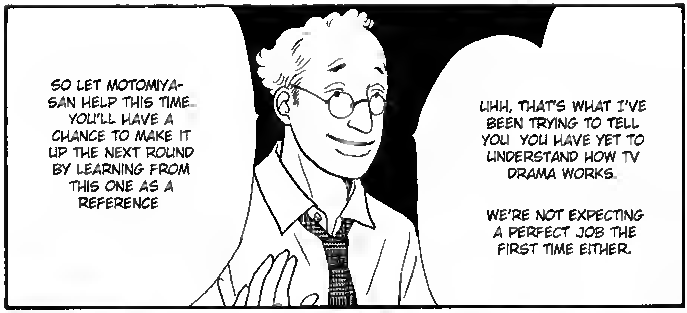
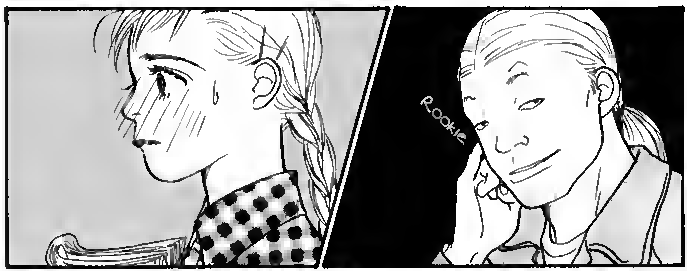
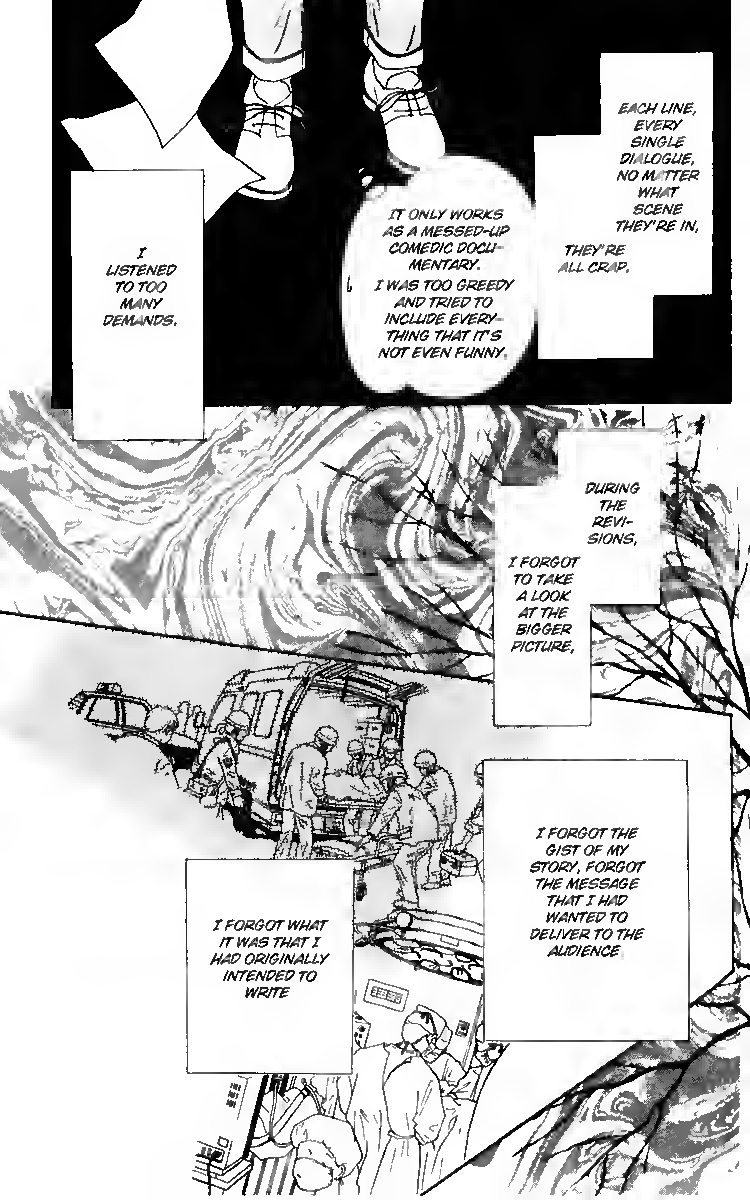

SO LET MOTOMIYA-SAN HELP THIS TIME. YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE IT UP THE NEXT ROUND BY LEARNING FROM THIS ONE AS A REFERENCE
UHH, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU. YOU HAVE YET TO UNDERSTAND HOW TV DRAMA WORKS.
WE'RE NOT EXPECTING A PERFECT JOB THE FIRST TIME EITHER.



JUST ONE MORE TIME...
GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE. JUST ONCE I'LL REWRITE THE SCRIPT AND TURN IT IN TOMORROW.
IF YOU STILL THINK THAT HIS VERSION IS BETTER .
THEN I'LL GIVE UP ON IT.

GRANNY,
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I CAREFULLY READ WHAT I WROTE FROM ANOTHER PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE...
THIS IS . ABSO-LUTELY LOUSY.


I LISTENED TO TOO MANY DEMANDS.
IT ONLY WORKS AS A MESSED-UP COMEDIC DOCU-MENTARY. I WAS TOO GREEDY AND TRIED TO INCLUDE EVERY-THING THAT IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY.
EACH LINE, EVERY SINGLE DIALOGUE, NO MATTER WHAT SCENE THEY'RE IN, THEY'RE ALL CRAP.
DURING THE REVI-SIONS, I FORGOT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE,
I FORGOT THE GIST OF MY STORY, FORGOT THE MESSAGE THAT I HAD WANTED TO DELIVER TO THE AUDIENCE
I FORGOT WHAT IT WAS THAT I HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO WRITE

THIS IS NOT MY SCRIPT.
NO MATTER HOW MANY RULES AND DEMANDS THERE ARE,
AM I NOT THE ONE WHO CREATED MY SCRIPT?
IF I FORGET TO LOOK AT MYSELF, THERE'S NO POINT WRITING IT.

IF I DON'T EVEN TRUST MYSELF, HOW CAN OTHER PEOPLE ACCEPT ME?

Please!
this one already works.
BUT, YOU SEE..
I REWROTE IT FROM START TO FINISH.
PLEASE READ IT BEFORE YOU MAKE A DECISION.
PLEASE!
.....
WHY DON'T YOU SCAN THROUGH IT A LITTLE. SHE PUT HER EFFORT INTO WRITING IT.
PITAPAT

flip

MOTOMI-YA-SAN.
NAITOU-SAN!
!
HERE, THE SCRIPT YOU REVISED.
SORRY, BUT PLEASE TAKE IT BACK.
THIS IS MORE THAN ACCEPTABLE.
BUT IT'S LIVELIER THAN A SCRIPT THAT JUST TRIED TO CONCLUDE EVERYTHING BRISKLY.
IT MAY BE ONLY DRIVEN BY THE POWER OF YOUTH.

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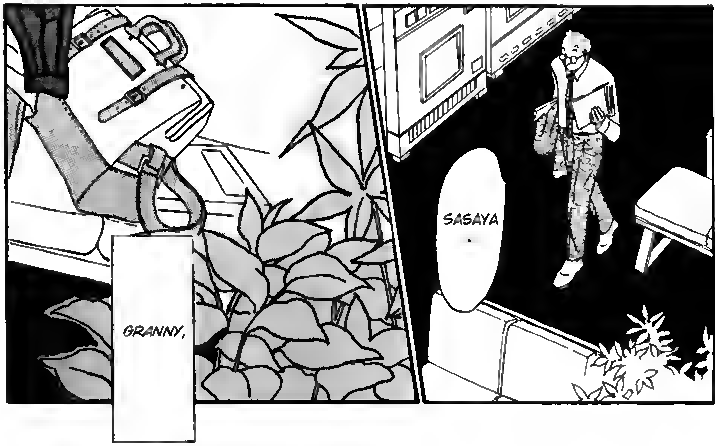
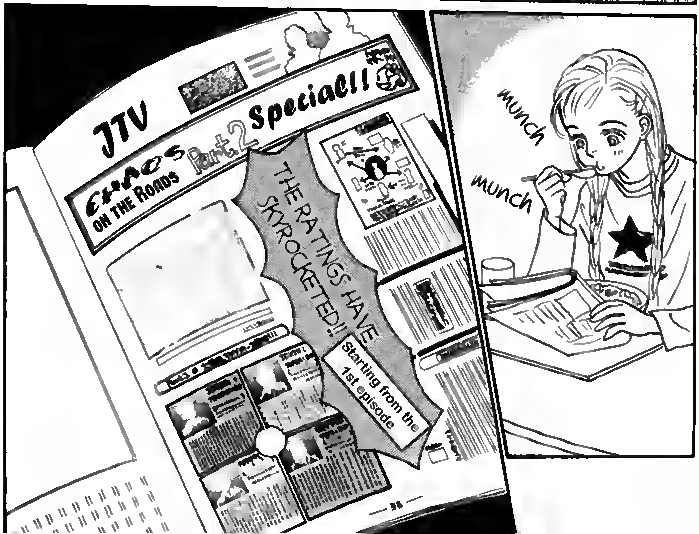
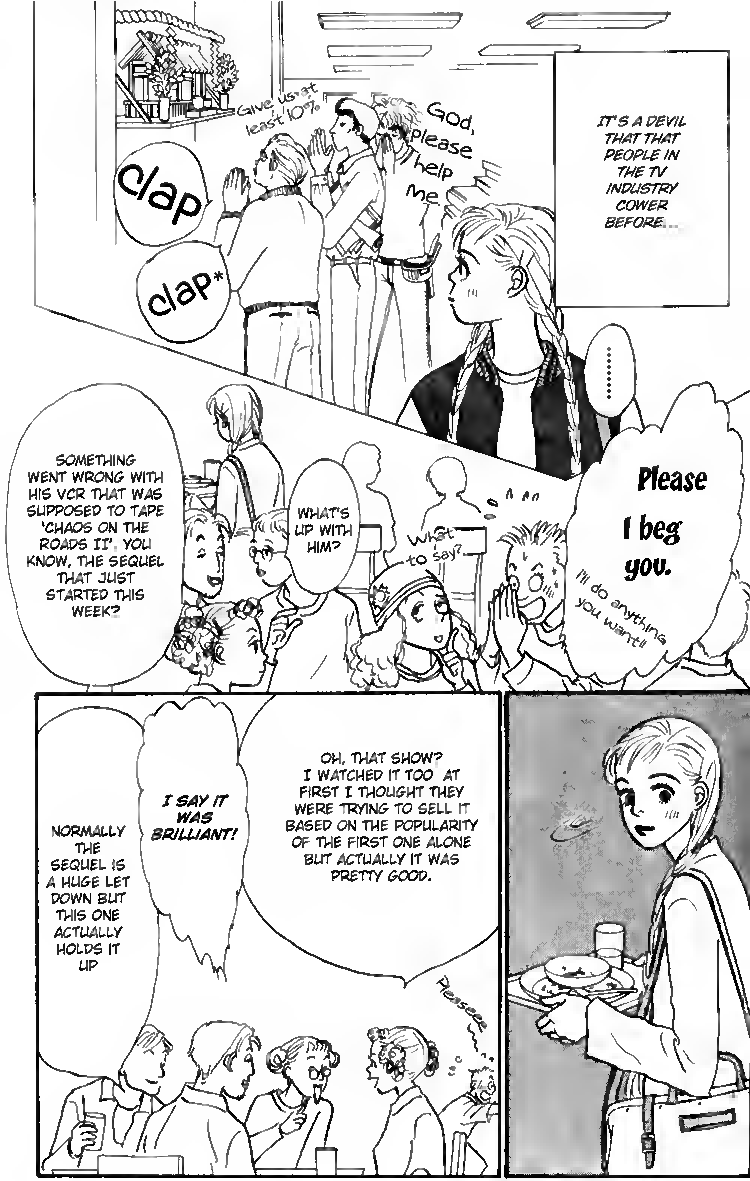


明日の王様
ASHITA NO OUSAMA
UNIT 31

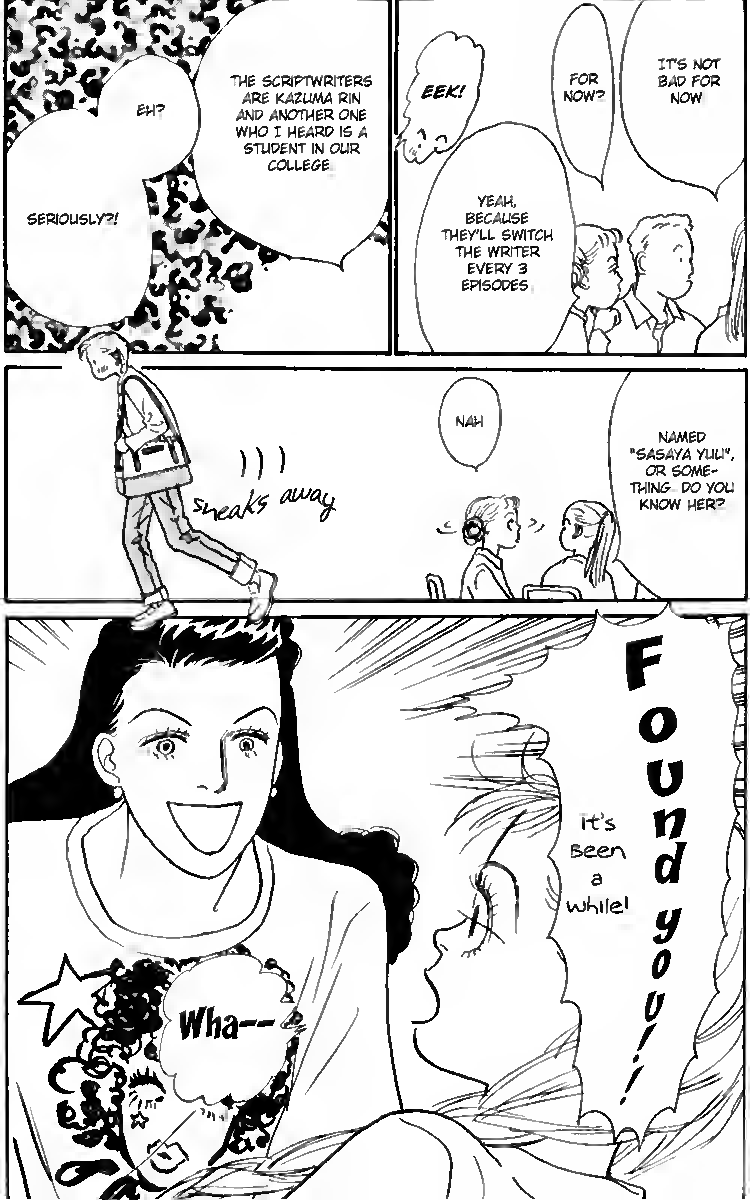

munch
munch
JTV
CHAOS ON THE ROADS Part 2 Special!!
THE RATINGS HAVE SKYROCKETED!!
Starting from the 1st episode

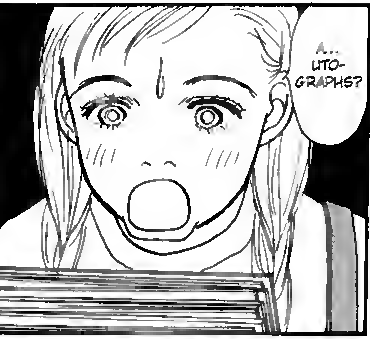
TV IS A MEDIA
WE HAVE NO IDEA
OR WHETHER THEY WILL SHARE THE SAME FEELINGS AS OURS.
WHETHER THEY WILL LAUGH, WHETHER THEY WILL CRY,
THAT IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM STAGE PLAYS. WE CAN'T SEE THE AUDIENCE'S REACTIONS
5/8~15
1 Saki-chan, the TV series.
2 Baseball Giant Nakanichi
3 The inter-continental journey of the little dog Impression Express
4 Friday's Special drama. The S Attorney season
27.4%
19.2%
THE ONLY THING THAT MAY BE AN INDICATOR
IS THE HEARTLESS NUMBER CALLED 'RATING'


Give us at least 10%
God, please help me
clap
clap*
IT'S A DEVIL THAT THAT PEOPLE IN THE TV INDUSTRY COWER BEFORE...
.....
Please I beg you.
I'll do anything you want!!
What to say?
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
SOMETHING WENT WRONG WITH HIS VCR THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO TAPE 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS II'. YOU KNOW, THE SEQUEL THAT JUST STARTED THIS WEEK?
OH, THAT SHOW? I WATCHED IT TOO AT FIRST I THOUGHT THEY WERE TRYING TO SELL IT BASED ON THE POPULARITY OF THE FIRST ONE ALONE BUT ACTUALLY IT WAS PRETTY GOOD.
I SAY IT WAS BRILLIANT!
NORMALLY THE SEQUEL IS A HUGE LET DOWN BUT THIS ONE ACTUALLY HOLDS IT UP
Pleased

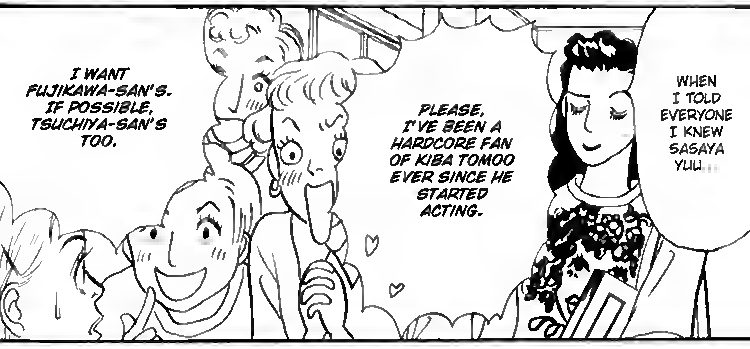
T/N - * They're praying before a Shinto altar When making wishes, people clap twice

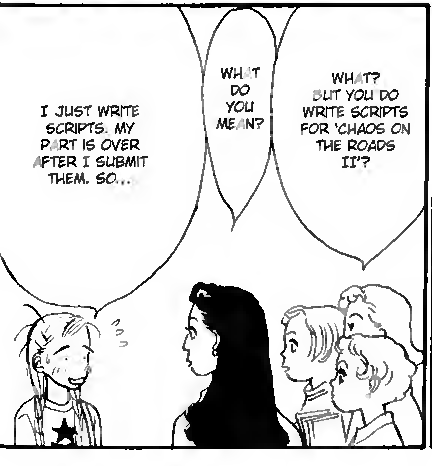
THE FIRST THREE EPISODES WILL BE KAZUMA RIN'S
Screenplay : Kazuma Rin
YES
FINALLY THE TV HAS STARTED BROADCASTING 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS II'
THAT'S RIGHT. THE FIRST EPISODE PIONEERED A GREAT BREAK-THROUGH.
IT WAS REALLY GOOD.
IT HURTS DEEP DOWN
BUT I DID LAUGH AND CRY.
How frustrating.
I know it'd turn out great.
A BIG FAN LIKE ME GUARANTEES IT!!
AH... I CAN'T WAIT FOR NEXT WEEK TO COME.

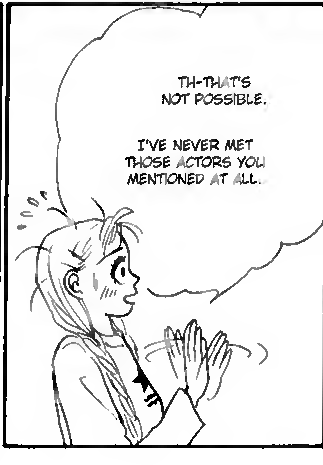

IT'S NOT BAD FOR NOW
FOR NOW?
EEK!
YEAH, BECAUSE THEY'LL SWITCH THE WRITER EVERY 3 EPISODES
THE SCRIPTWRITERS ARE KAZUMA RIN AND ANOTHER ONE WHO I HEARD IS A STUDENT IN OUR COLLEGE
EH?
SERIOUSLY?!
NAMED "SASAYA YUU", OR SOMETHING. DO YOU KNOW HER?
NAH
sneaks away
Found you!!
It's been a while!
Wha--

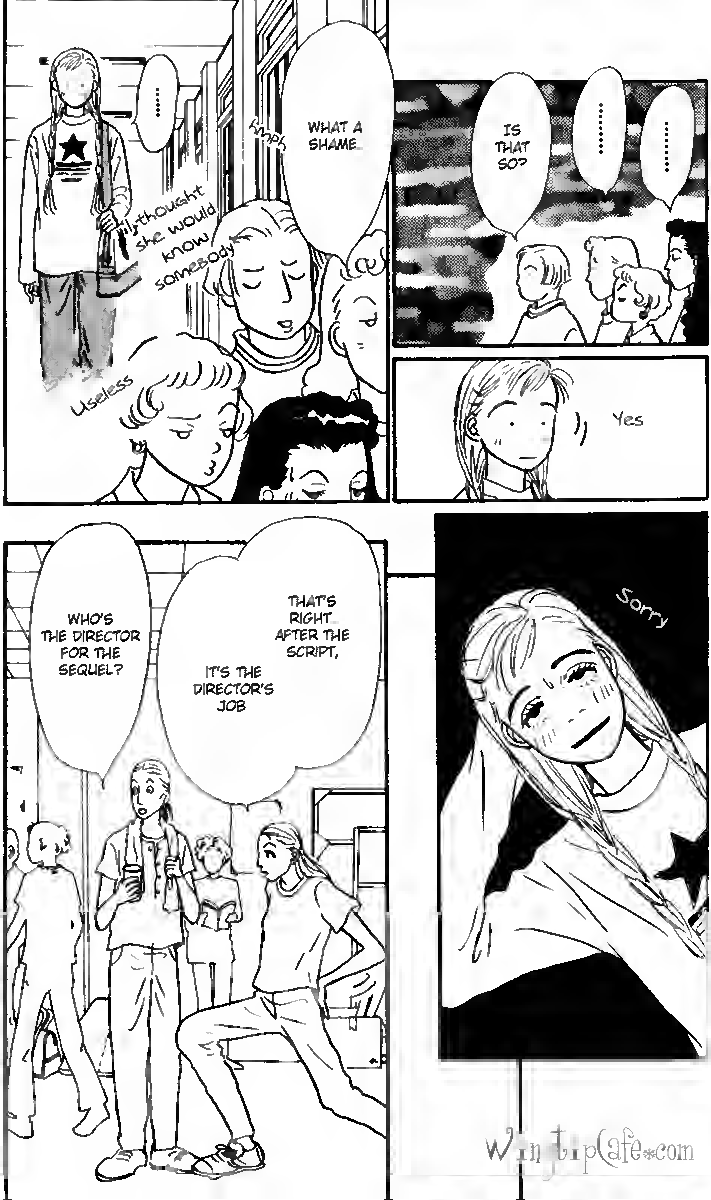

A... UTO-GRAPHS?

STACK


I WANT FUJIKAWA-SAN'S. IF POSSIBLE, TSUCHIYA-SAN'S TOO.
PLEASE, I'VE BEEN A HARDCORE FAN OF KIBA TOMOO EVER SINCE HE STARTED ACTING.
WHEN I TOLD EVERYONE I KNEW SASAYA YUU...


I JUST WRITE SCRIPTS. MY PART IS OVER AFTER I SUBMIT THEM. SO...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT? BUT YOU DO WRITE SCRIPTS FOR 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS II'?


TH-THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
I'VE NEVER MET THOSE ACTORS YOU MENTIONED AT ALL.



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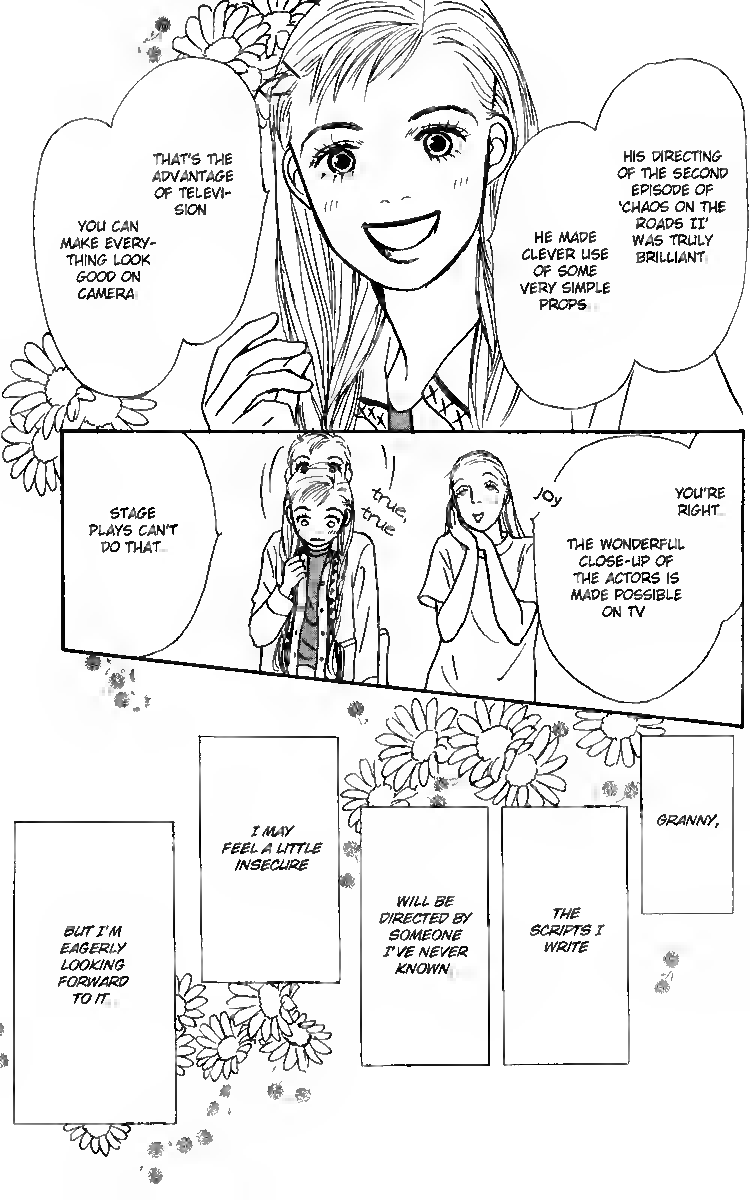
OH, THAT GUY?
THE PERSON WHO TURNED THAT NO.1 BEST SELLING NOVEL INTO A TV DRAMA.
HE DIRECTED KKTV'S DRAMA, 'PANDORA'.
THE RATING WAS GOOD.
OH, I KNOW HIM!
HIS NAME IS SONOBE EITA.
YEAH! THE HEROINE IN PANDORA, HER ACTING WAS SO POWERFUL AND IMPRESSIVE.
THE CASTING WAS GREAT TOO
THE LEAD ACTRESS, HIRONA-CHAN BECAME POPULAR BECAUSE OF THIS SERIES.
IT WAS A BREAKTHROUGH FOR HER.
SURE. IT'S THE BOOK THAT EVERYONE TALED ABOUT IT WAS SOLD OUT INSTANTLY WHEN IT WAS RELEASED, ALL 6 MILLION COPIES OF THEM
I HEARD HE'S EXTREMELY BUSY ALL THE TIME. I'VE NEVER MET HIM ONCE
IS THAT RIGHT?
HMM
SOUNDS LIKE A CAPABLE MAN, THIS SONOBE PERSON


HIS DIRECTING OF THE SECOND EPISODE OF 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS II' WAS TRULY BRILLIANT
HE MADE CLEVER USE OF SOME VERY SIMPLE PROPS
THAT'S THE ADVANTAGE OF TELEVISION
YOU CAN MAKE EVERYTHING LOOK GOOD ON CAMERA
YOU'RE RIGHT
Joy
THE WONDERFUL CLOSE-UP OF THE ACTORS IS MADE POSSIBLE ON TV
true, true
STAGE PLAYS CAN'T DO THAT
GRANNY,
THE SCRIPTS I WRITE
WILL BE DIRECTED BY SOMEONE I'VE NEVER KNOWN
I MAY FEEL A LITTLE INSECURE
BUT I'M EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT

I WANT TO KNOW IF IT'LL BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I IMAGINED.
I HAVE A FEELING THAT IT'S GOING TO BE AN INCREDIBLY SUPERB DRAMA
Yahhh
I HAVE TO TRY MY BEST TOO
FINALLY
THAT'S WHY I PATIENTLY REVISED THE SCRIPT THREE TIMES
YOU SEE
THE DAY THE 4TH EPISODE THAT WAS CREATED FROM MY SCRIPT WILL BE AIRED.
AH

realized
WAIT, TOUYA. WHERE' RE YOU GOING?!
I FORGOT TO SET MY VCR!
VCR?!
WHAT DATE IS TODAY?
18
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU THINKING? YOU THINK YOU'RE SO FREE AS TO GO BACK TO YOUR APARTMENT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
TOUYA!!
Y-YEAH.
I'm a little nervous
IT'S THE DAY
WHAT?

RIGHT, GUYS?
Yeah, it is.
LET'S HURRY AND FINISH REHEARSAL EARLY TODAY.
SO TODAY'S THE DAY
IT'LL BE AIRED TODAY. THE EPISODE THAT YUU-CHAN WROTE FOR 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS II'.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW, CHIEF ---?!
How could you say that?!
IT'S NOT NECESSARY I ALREADY TIMED MY VCR DON'T WORRY ON MY ACCOUNT.
OH, I
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT GET LUCKY AND SKIP PRACTICE.
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YUU MIGHT BE RESTLESS BUT DO YOU HAVE TO HURRY BACK AND WATCH IT TOO?
ACK!
... YOU GUYS ...
That's right! That's right!
IT'S NOT THE SAME AS WATCHING IT IN REAL TIME.

RIGHT, GUYS?
WE'RE HONESTLY CONCERNED FOR YUU-CHAN'S DRAMA, YOU KNOW
A-AWW, CHIEF
WHAT MADE YOU SAY THAT?
Ehh
NO EXCUSES.
AND THIS LOT OF SCHOOL KIDS WHO WANNA PLAY TRUANT WILL STAY HERE
YUU, YOU CAN LEAVE EARLY TODAY
So wanta the show real time.
EH?
Chief?!
I HAVE A DATE!!
PLEASE FORGIVE US!!
I thought as much.

AH!
IT'S STARTED!
BANG
JUST CALM DOWN.
AH, IT'S HOT.
Ouchh!
Hotch!
Screenplay by Sasaya Yuu

WingtipCafe.com

thump
thump
thump
thump
thump
thump
thump

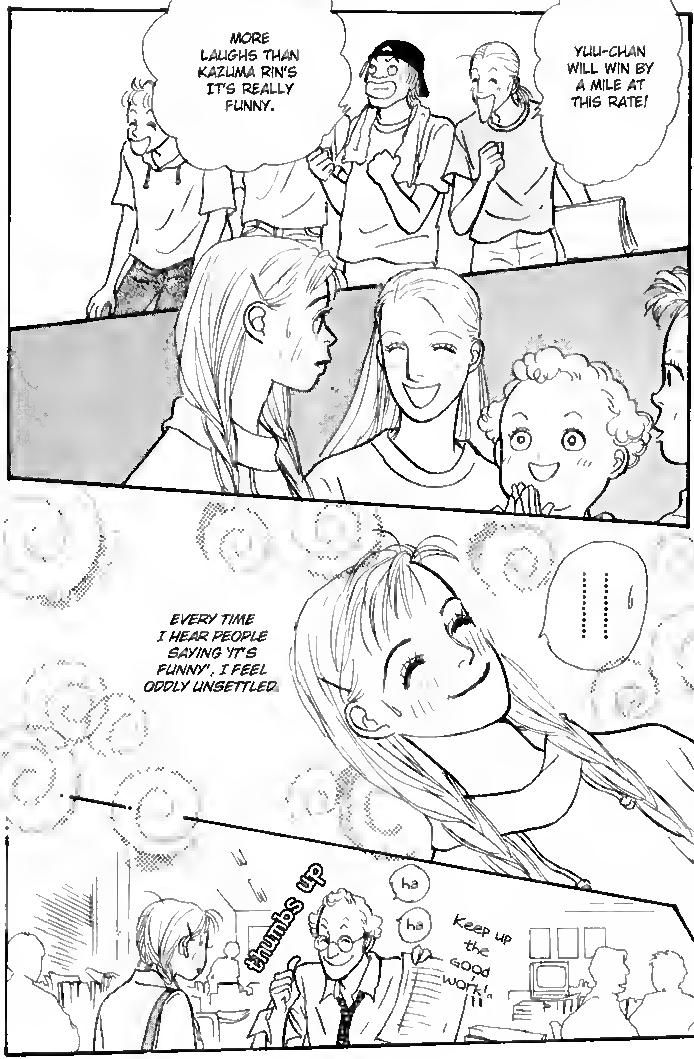
制作　Jテレビ
エンディングテーマ
Chiruno Yuukyuu
作詞　Mako
作曲　Ranchi
……
＊亜＊＊

Aha ha ha ha
I KNEW THAT PEOPLE WERE RAVING ABOUT THIS DRAMA BUT I'VE NEVER WATCHED IT MYSELF
ACTUALLY, IT'S PRETTY FUN, THIS ONE
MY... THE MINUTE WE FINISHED THE SHOOT, HE RAN AROUND YELLING "WHICH ROOM HAS A TV?". I WAS VERY SURPRISED.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT TOUYA-KUN IS A FAN OF THIS DRAMA TOO.
YOU WATCH IT TOO?
Yeahhh
I'M A HUGE FAN.
I HAVE ALL THE VIDEOS AND I'VE WATCHED THEM COUNT-LESS TIMES.

SO-SO?
AN AVID FAN LIKE ME WAS A LITTLE CONCERNED. AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, IT'S SO-SO
BOTH THE DIRECTOR AND THE SCREEN-WRITER FOR THE SEQUEL ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL.
I AGREE. IT'S ONE SELLING POINT OF THE SERIES. THERE MUST BE SOME CHARACTER PROVIDING A COMEDIC RELIEF IN EVERY EPISODE.
YOU THINK? BUT I SAY IT'S FUNNY. I LAUGHED LIKE MAD.
WELL... LIKE THIS EPISODE THAT WAS JUST BROADCASTED, THERE WERE TOO MANY COMEDIC SCENES
OH, YOU DIDN'T KNOW? THIS DRAMA HAS BECOME A HOT TOPIC FOR HAVING TWO SCREENWRITERS TAKING TURNS WRITING SCRIPTS.
EH?
THEY CHANGED THE SCREEN-WRITER?
EVEN THE ONES KAZUMA RIN WROTE, FROM THE FIRST EPISODE UNTIL LAST WEEK DID A GOOD JOB BALANCING THIS ASPECT.
TRUE. BUT 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS' ISN'T A COMEDY SHOW.

THAT GIRL IS SO LUCKY.
AND THE OTHER ONE IS JUST A COLLEGE GIRL TOO!
LUCKY?
OH, DON'T YOU AGREE?
THAT MONSTROUS TV DRAMA HAS NEVER HAD A RATING LOWER THAN 25%
YOU CAN WRITE SHITTY SCRIPTS, BUT THANKS TO ITS PREVIOUS SUCCESS, THE RATING WILL HOLD ITSELF UP.
Taxi!
SHE MUST BE LAUGHING HER ASS OFF RIGHT NOW.
TAP

TAX
BUT I DOUBT THAT SHE'D LAUGH AFTER HEARING A COMMENT LIKE "IT'S
IT WAS VERY FUNNY.
victory
PAT PAT
GREAT JOB!


MORE LAUGHS THAN KAZUMA RIN'S IT'S REALLY FUNNY.
YUU-CHAN WILL WIN BY A MILE AT THIS RATE!
EVERY TIME I HEAR PEOPLE SAYING "IT'S FUNNY", I FEEL ODDLY UNSETTLED.
.....
thumbs up
ha
ha
Keep up the good work!

AND ON TOP OF THAT. .
A HEAVY WEIGHT OF UNEASINESS.
WHAT'S... HAPPENING? AREN'T THERE MORE AND MORE 'FUNNY SCENES' EACH EPISODE?
ha ha ha ha
THERE ARE TOO MANY UNNECESSARY OFF-SCRIPT SCENES.
BUT .
NO, MY SCRIPT WASN'T EDITED.

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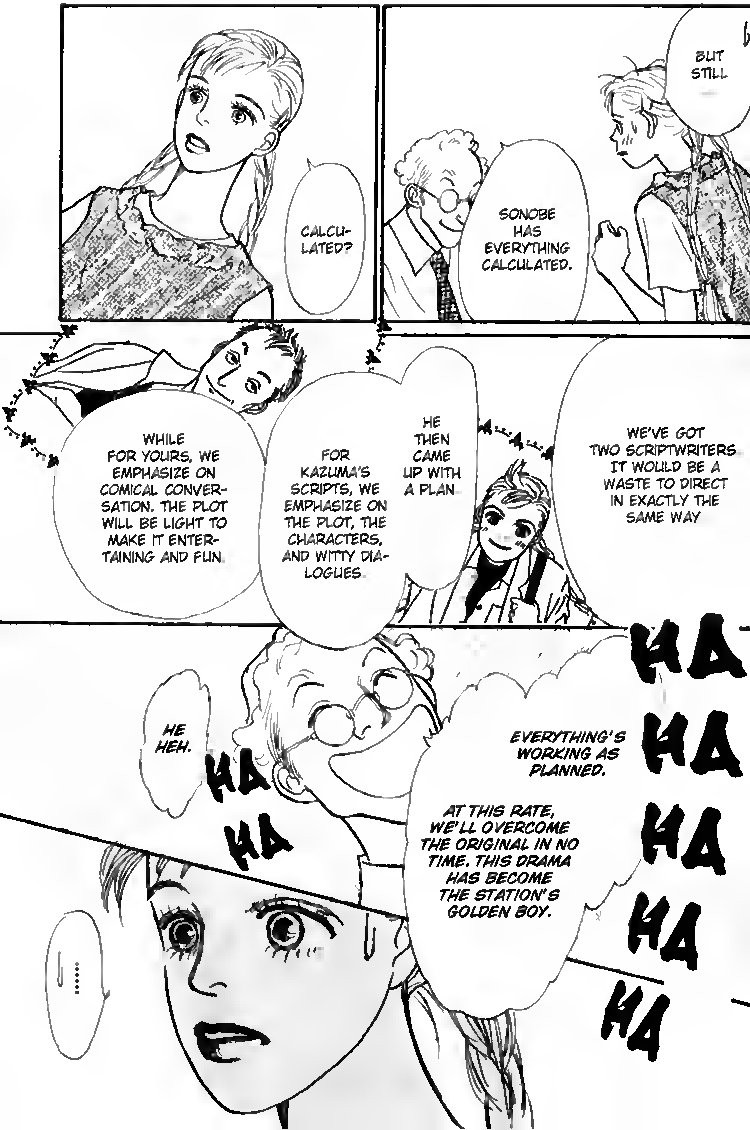
THE RATING KEEPS CLIMBING UP. WE'VE ALMOST OVERCOME THE ORIGINAL NOW.
WHAT'S TO BE UNHAPPY ABOUT?
I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING.
HA HA HA HA.
TO THE EXTENT THAT THE ONLY IMPRESSION AFTER WATCHING THE SHOW WILL BE NOTHING BUT "IT'S FUNNY".
SONOBE DIDN'T CUT THAT PART OUT WHEN HE WAS DIRECTING.
OF COURSE, AND IT WAS PRESENTED
BUT IN THAT SCRIPT, THE MESSAGE I WANTED TO PRESENT WAS THE CONCERN OF THE FAMILY FOR THE PATIENT WHO WAS SENT TO THE HOSPITAL.


CALCULATED?
SONOBE HAS EVERYTHING CALCULATED.
BUT STILL
WHILE FOR YOURS, WE EMPHASIZE ON COMICAL CONVERSATION. THE PLOT WILL BE LIGHT TO MAKE IT ENTERTAINING AND FUN.
FOR KAZUMA'S SCRIPTS, WE EMPHASIZE ON THE PLOT, THE CHARACTERS, AND WITTY DIALOGUES.
HE THEN CAME UP WITH A PLAN
WE'VE GOT TWO SCRIPTWRITERS. IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO DIRECT IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY
HE HEH.
HA HA
EVERYTHING'S WORKING AS PLANNED.
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL OVERCOME THE ORIGINAL IN NO TIME. THIS DRAMA HAS BECOME THE STATION'S GOLDEN BOY.
HA HA HA HA HA
.....

BANG
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
"COMICAL CONVERSATION"
"LIGHT PLOT"
"FUN ENTERTAINMENT"
BUT
AND WHY IS THAT A PROBLEM?
BUT ...
THEN MY PARTS WILL BE REDUCED TO JUST CHEAP COMEDY FILLER.

YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH.
WE NEED RELIEF ONCE IN A WHILE, AND THAT GOES FOR EVERY-THING
RELIEF ...
SO... MY SCRIPTS ARE USED TO CREATE COMEDIC RELIEF FOR THE AUDIENCE?
clack
OH
OTHERWISE, IT'LL BE TOUGH FOR YOU TO STAY IN THIS BUSINESS
YOU'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO COMPLAIN. YOU SHOULD BE OVERJOYED THAT THE RATING IS THIS HIGH, AND BE GRATEFUL TO SONOBE'S TALENT TOO
YOU KNOW,
Cut it out!

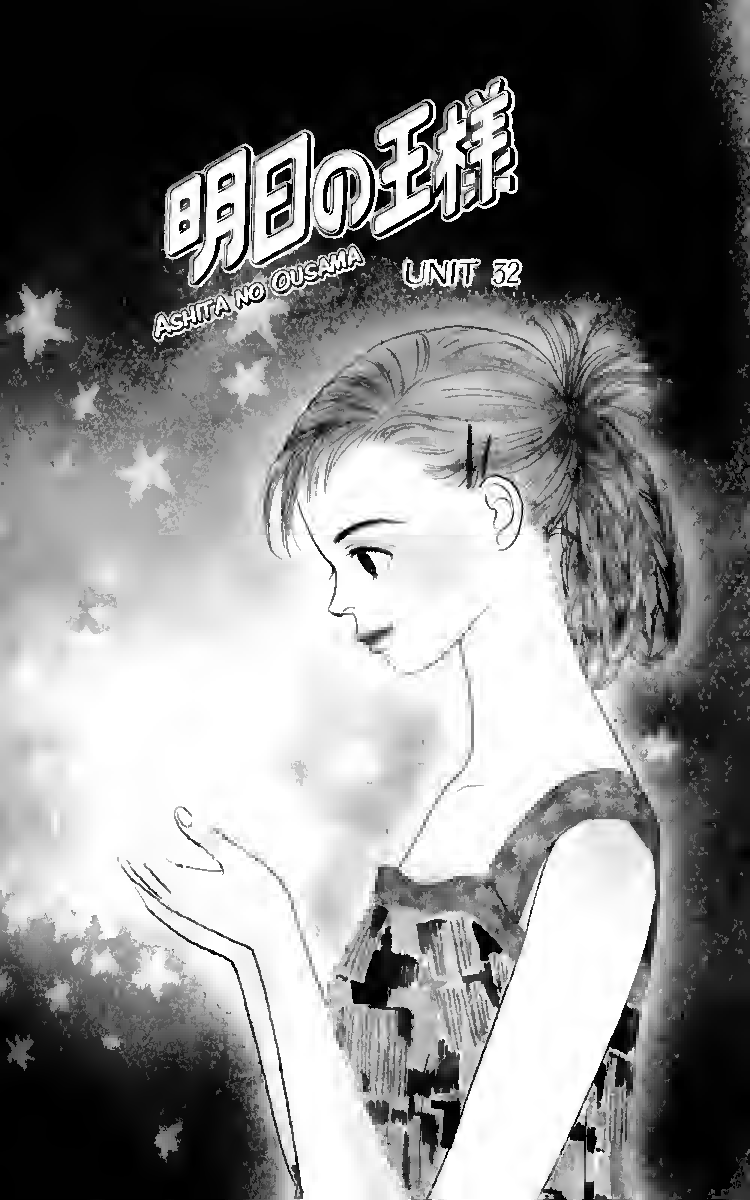
NAITOU-SAN ABOUT WHAT WE DISCUSSED
AH, SONOBE
AH,
ISN'T THIS SASAYA YUU?

WE FINALLY MEET.
I WAS SO BUSY WITH THE PRODUCTION MEETINGS THAT I'VE NEVER GOTTEN A CHANCE
BUT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE YOU.
NICE MEETING YOU TODAY.
SO THIS MAN IS SONOBE EITA?

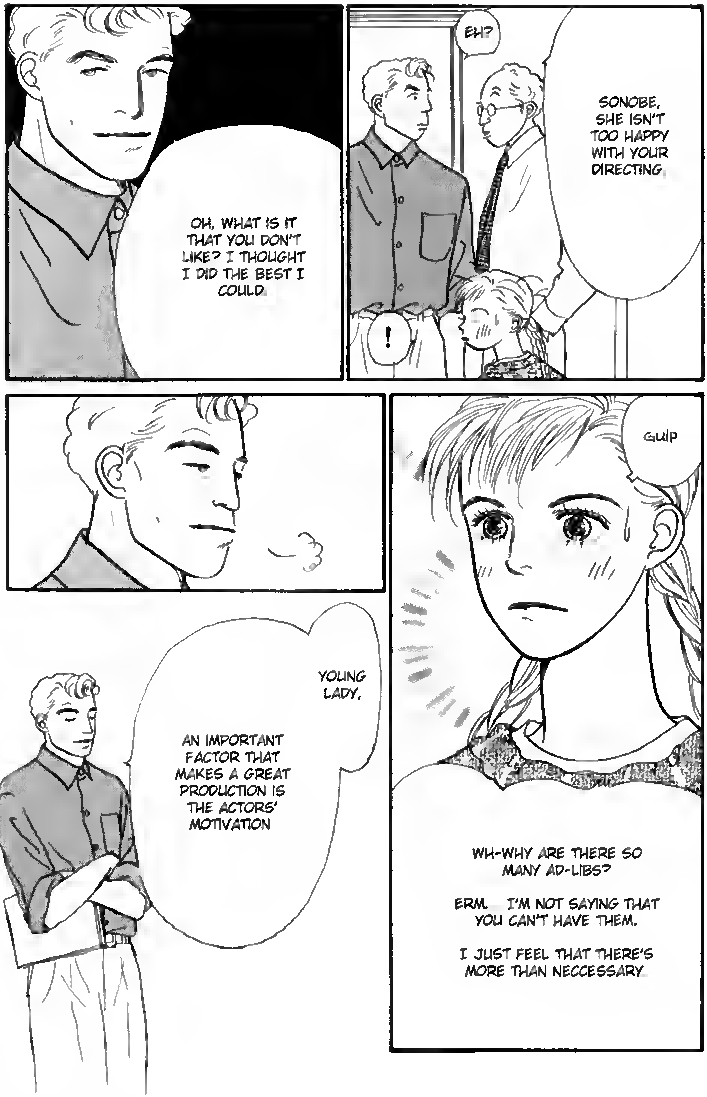
明日の王様

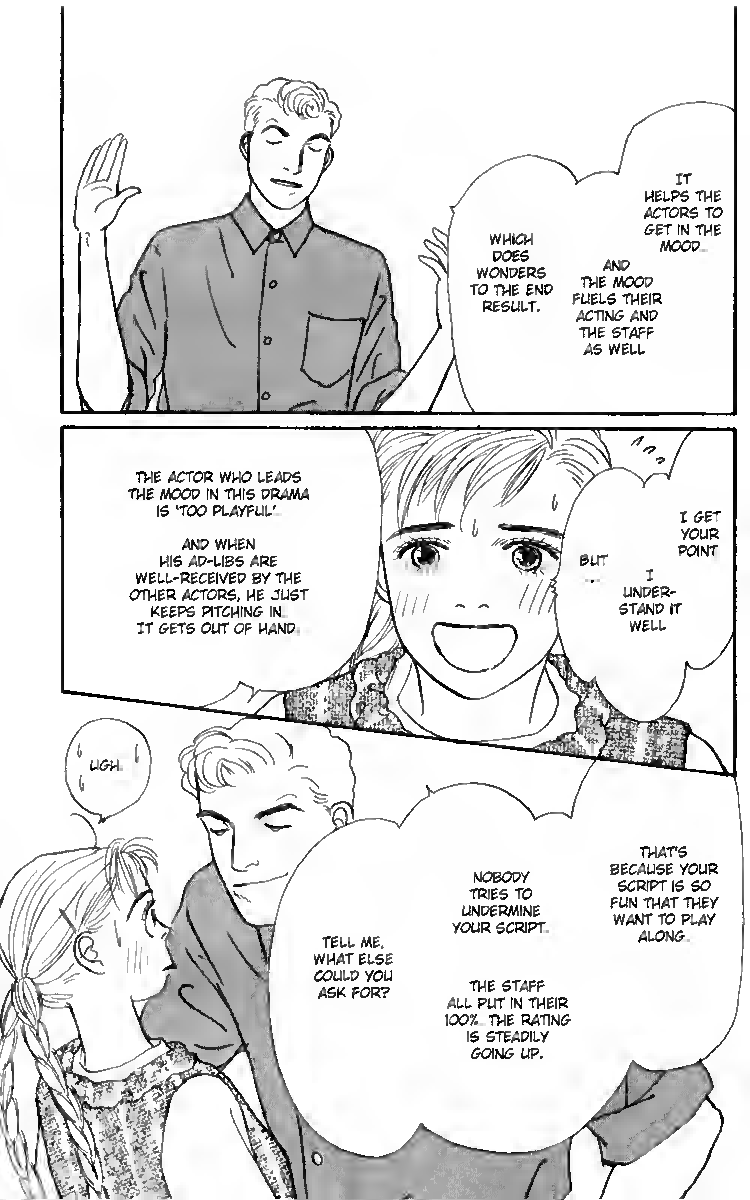
ASHITA NO OUSAMA

UNIT 32



DIRECTOR SONOBE EITA...
WHILE FOR MINE, "THE COMICAL CONVERSATION AND LIGHT PLOT"
FOR KAZUMA-SAN'S SCRIPT, "THE SOLID PLOT, THE CHARACTERS, AND SHARP DIALOGUE."
?
BUT...
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST COMEDIES,
BUT...
AND I'M NOT TRYING TO CALL ATTENTION TO MYSELF.


OH, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DON'T LIKE? I THOUGHT I DID THE BEST I COULD.
EH?
SONOBE, SHE ISN'T TOO HAPPY WITH YOUR DIRECTING.
!
GULP
WH-WHY ARE THERE SO MANY AD-LIBS?
ERM... I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM.
I JUST FEEL THAT THERE'S MORE THAN NECCESSARY.
YOUNG LADY,
AN IMPORTANT FACTOR THAT MAKES A GREAT PRODUCTION IS THE ACTORS' MOTIVATION


IT HELPS THE ACTORS TO GET IN THE MOOD.
AND THE MOOD FUELS THEIR ACTING AND THE STAFF AS WELL
WHICH DOES WONDERS TO THE END RESULT.
THE ACTOR WHO LEADS THE MOOD IN THIS DRAMA IS 'TOO PLAYFUL'.
AND WHEN HIS AD-LIBS ARE WELL-RECEIVED BY THE OTHER ACTORS, HE JUST KEEPS PITCHING IN. IT GETS OUT OF HAND.
I GET YOUR POINT
BUT...
I UNDERSTAND IT WELL
UGH.
TELL ME, WHAT ELSE COULD YOU ASK FOR?
NOBODY TRIES TO UNDERMINE YOUR SCRIPT.
THE STAFF ALL PUT IN THEIR 100%. THE RATING IS STEADILY GOING UP.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR SCRIPT IS SO FUN THAT THEY WANT TO PLAY ALONG.

Perfect
How was the outing?
BUT....
AM I BEING TOO SELF-CENTERED?
THERE'S NOTHING I SHOULD COMPLAIN ABOUT
HE... HE'S RIGHT
OH YES PLEASE!
YOU WANT TO OBSERVE?
M4

THE ATMO-SPHERE IS GOOD
AND COZY.
EVERY ONE SEEMS TO BE HAVING FUN
OH, IT'S THAT ACTOR
THE VETERAN ACTOR THAT CONSTANTLY APPEARS IN MANY DRAMAS
HE USUALLY GETS A SERIOUS, STERN-LOOKING ROLE.
I probably upset him
YES. WHAT'S THERE TO COMPLAIN
MAYBE I REALLY AM SELF-CENTERED.
BUT THE REAL HIM IS A PRANKSTER WHO LIKES TO AD-LIB, I SEE
giggle

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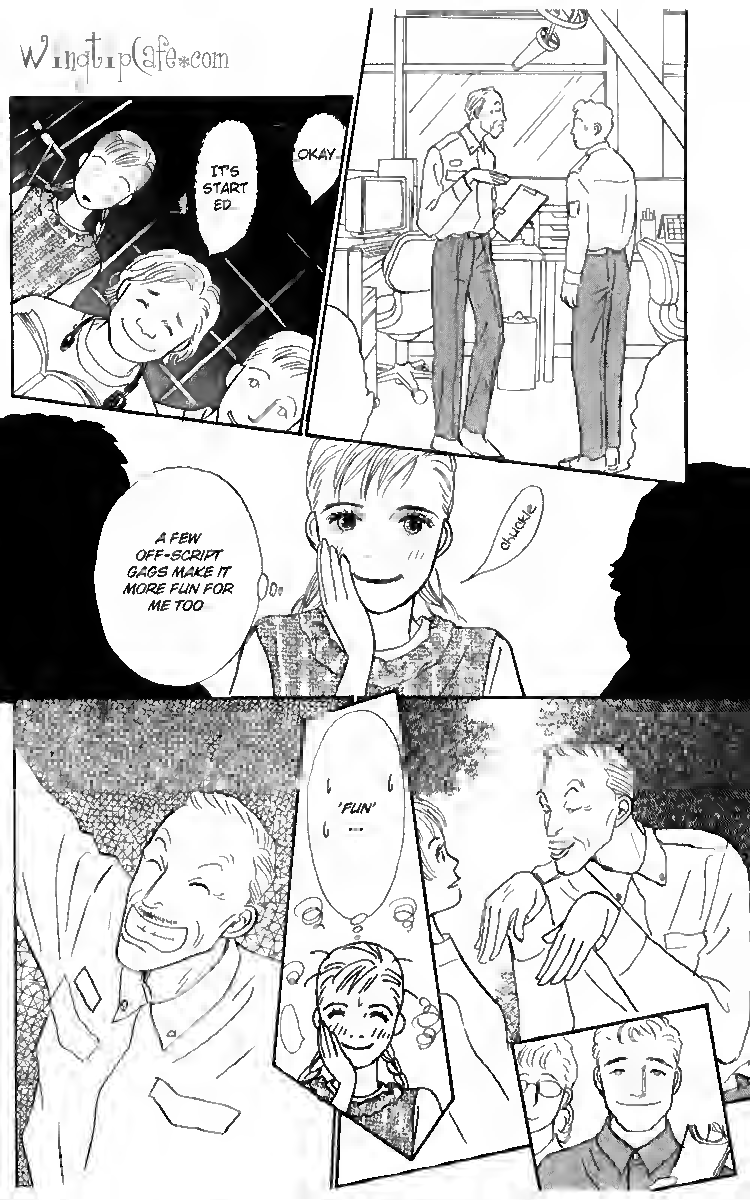
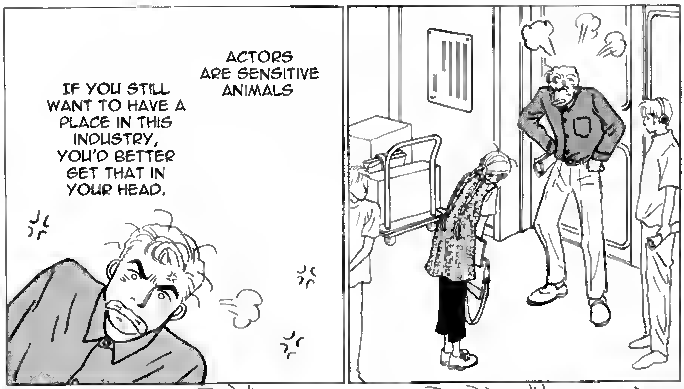
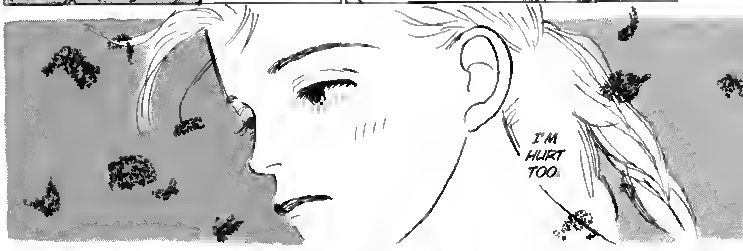


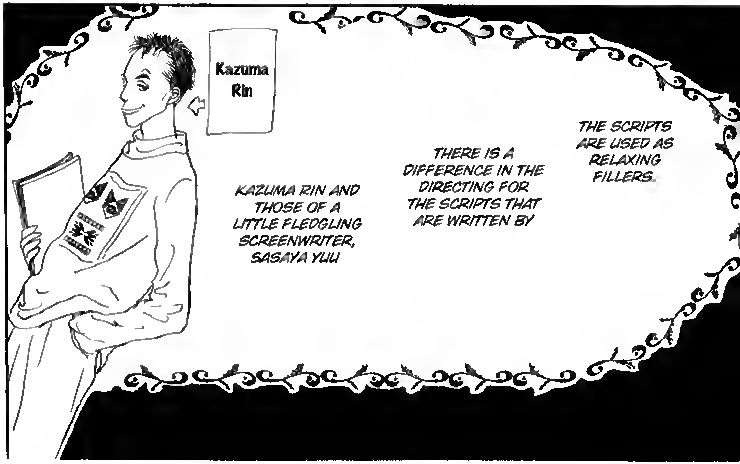
That's too much!!
That's ...
Cuttt!!

sigh
YOU SAID 'THAT'S TOO MUCH', RIGHT? WAS THAT INTENDED FOR ME?
Y-YES
Y-YUU-KUN
HO, SO YOU'RE SASAYA YUU.
THE SCREEN-WRITER THAT'S ON THE NEWS.

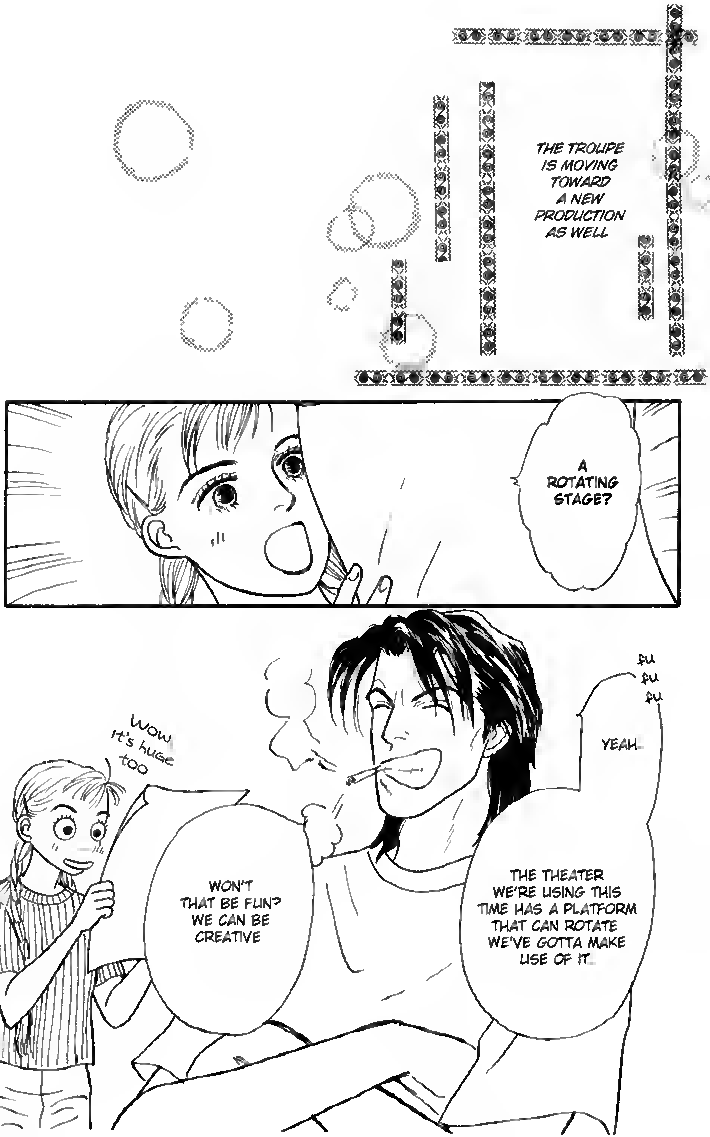
twi
YOU THINK
tch
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THOSE THINGS?
Don't Make Me laugh.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I WAS BABBLING TOO MUCH AND RUINED THE SHOW?
Spills everything
honestly
I DIDN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T AD-LIB.
PERSONALLY, I THINK IT'S KINDA FUN BUT YOU HAVE TO PICK THE MOMENT. SOMETIMES GOING OVERBOARD DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD
Argh
!
I GUESS.
KOBASHI-SAN!
WHAT QUALIFICATION DOES A LITTLE FLEDGLING SCREENWRITER WHO HAS JUST PECKED HER WAY OUT OF HER SHELL LIKE YOU HAVE TO LECTURE ME?!
YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD, YOUNG LADY...

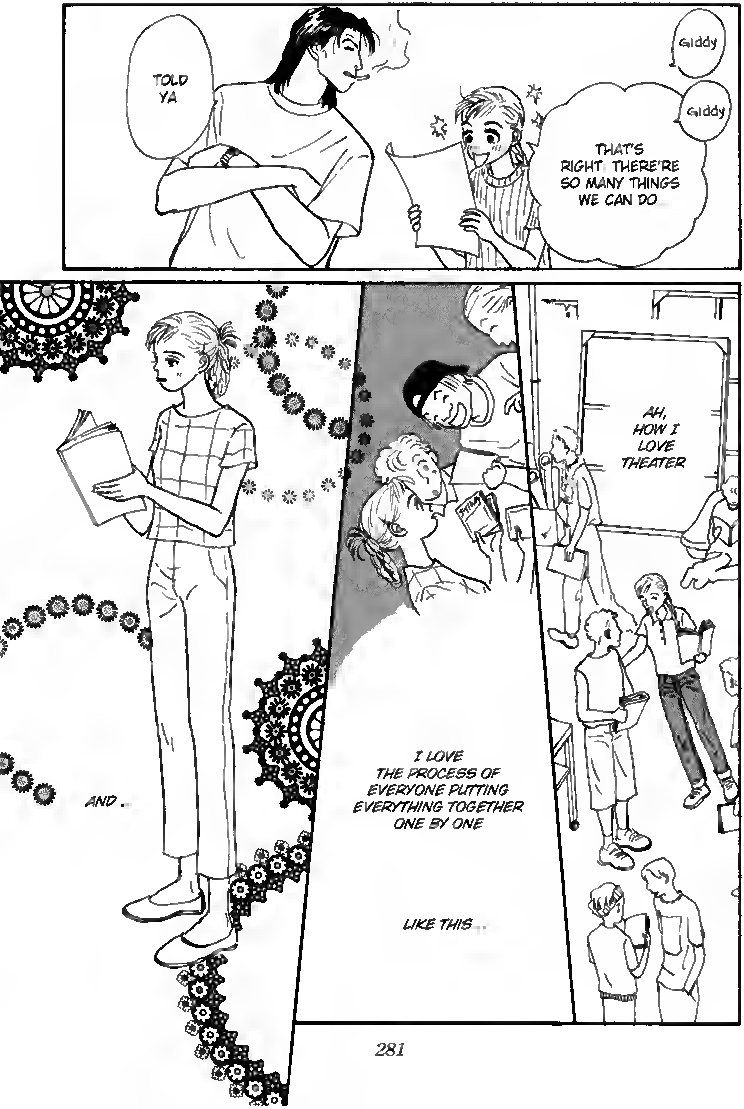

IF YOU STILL WANT TO HAVE A PLACE IN THIS INDUSTRY, YOU'D BETTER GET THAT IN YOUR HEAD.
ACTORS ARE SENSITIVE ANIMALS

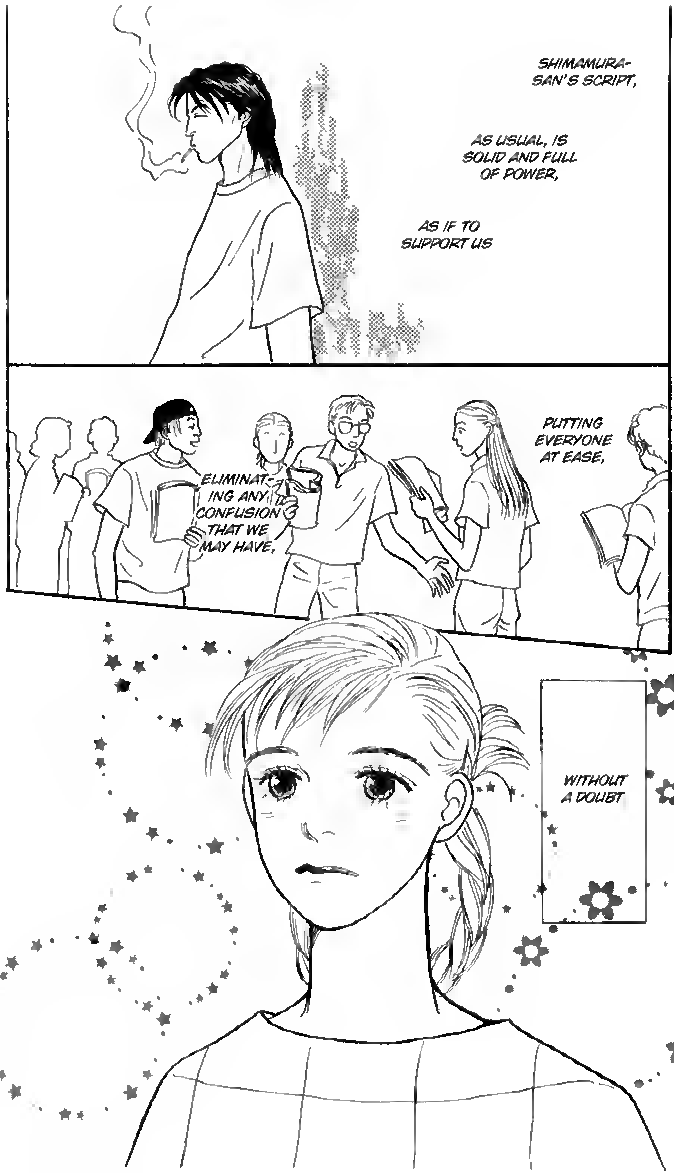

I'M HURT TOO.


Kazuma Rin
KAZUMA RIN AND THOSE OF A LITTLE FLEDGLING SCREENWRITER, SASAYA YUU.
THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN THE DIRECTING FOR THE SCRIPTS THAT ARE WRITTEN BY
THE SCRIPTS ARE USED AS RELAXING FILLERS.

Flashback
Ouch
Ah,
Pay attention.
GRANNY,
IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING FROM MY SCRIPTS?


THE TROUPE IS MOVING TOWARD A NEW PRODUCTION AS WELL
A ROTATING STAGE?
Wow, it's huge too
WON'T THAT BE FUN? WE CAN BE CREATIVE
YEAH.
THE THEATER WE'RE USING THIS TIME HAS A PLATFORM THAT CAN ROTATE WE'VE GOTTA MAKE USE OF IT.


TOLD YA
Giddy
Giddy
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'RE SO MANY THINGS WE CAN DO
AH, HOW I LOVE THEATER
I LOVE THE PROCESS OF EVERYONE PUTTING EVERYTHING TOGETHER ONE BY ONE
LIKE THIS
AND


SHIMAMURA-SAN'S SCRIPT,
AS USUAL, IS SOLID AND FULL OF POWER,
AS IF TO SUPPORT US
PUTTING EVERYONE AT EASE,
ELIMINATING ANY CONFUSION THAT WE MAY HAVE,
WITHOUT A DOUBT

かきおろし

手作り大好きっ!

一時期ケーキ作りにこっていた事がありまふ♪

友人にあげる前の味見で

ゲップ

あきてしまいまひた。。

…

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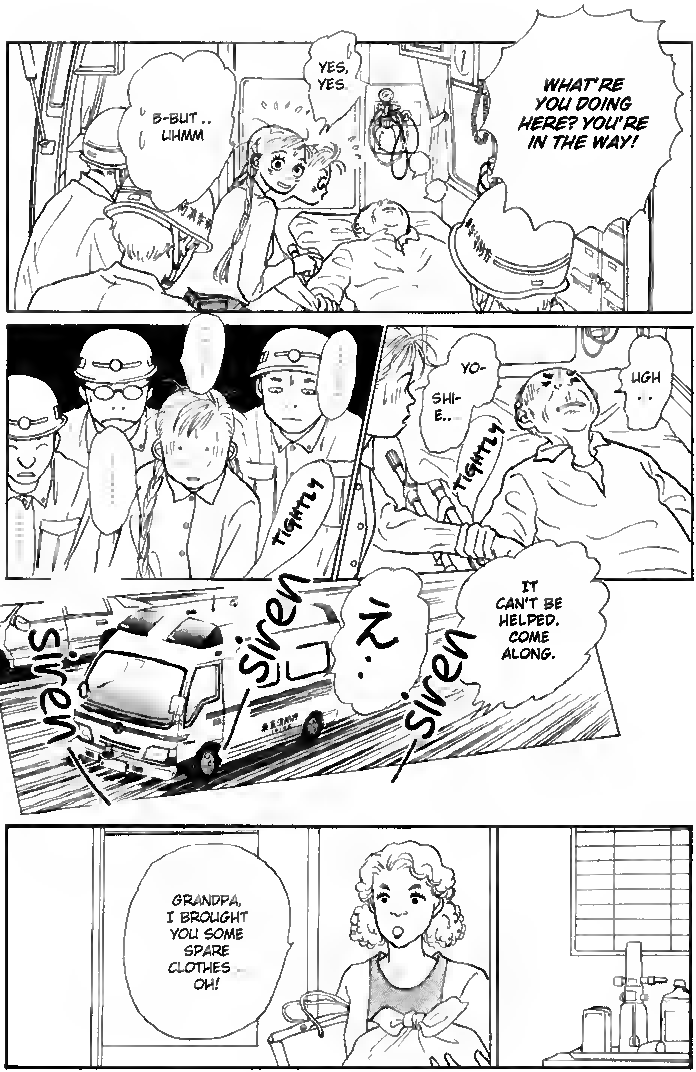
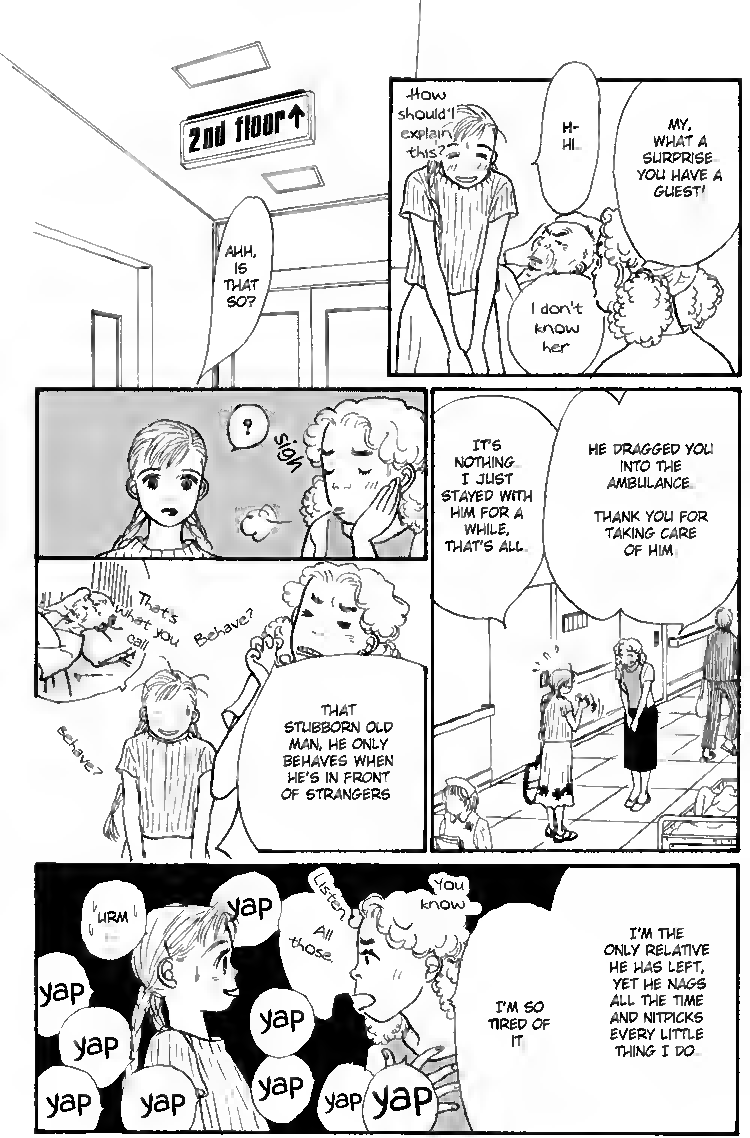
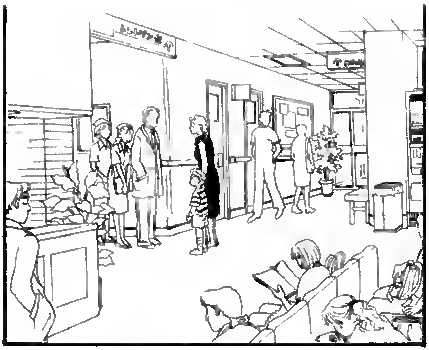
SHOWBOU HOSPITAL
GLARE
GOOD AFTERNOON HAVE YOU GOTTEN BETTER?
HMPH
WOULD YOU BE HERE HAD I GOTTEN BETTER?
AH..!
YOU'RE RIGHT SORRY
THIS IS FOR YOU
BUT YOUR COMPLEXION IS MUCH BETTER TODAY. YOU'LL BE FINE SOON

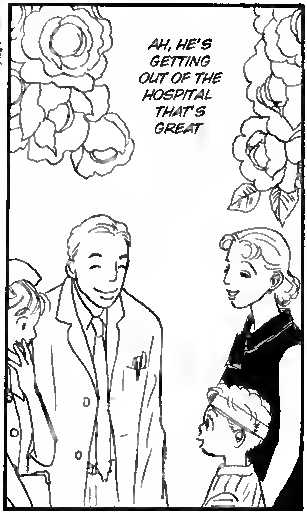
HE HAD A HEART ATTACK. NO MOVING!
siren
STRETCHER!
DURING ONE OF MY FIELD RESEAR CHES,
siren
THIS OLD MAN
AH.
AND WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
HMPH!
AH.
...
STAT!
grab
siren
siren
OH, THIS IS HIS BAG. PLEASE TAKE IT WITH HIM.


B-BUT.. UHMM
YES, YES.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
TIGHTLY
YO- SHI- E..
TIGHTLY
UGH..
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. COME ALONG.
SIREN
SIREN
SIREN
GRANDPA, I BROUGHT YOU SOME SPARE CLOTHES OH!


2nd floor↑
AHH, IS THAT SO?
How should I explain this?
H-HI
I don't know her
MY, WHAT A SURPRISE YOU HAVE A GUEST!
?
sigh
That's what you call
Behave?
Behave?
THAT STUBBORN OLD MAN, HE ONLY BEHAVES WHEN HE'S IN FRONT OF STRANGERS
IT'S NOTHING I JUST STAYED WITH HIM FOR A WHILE, THAT'S ALL
HE DRAGGED YOU INTO THE AMBULANCE
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF HIM
URM
yap
yap
yap
yap
yap
yap
yap
Listen
All those
You know
I'M SO TIRED OF IT
I'M THE ONLY RELATIVE HE HAS LEFT, YET HE NAGS ALL THE TIME AND NITPICKS EVERY LITTLE THING I DO

THAT WOULD BE ME
UHM, IS THERE SOMEONE NAMED YOSHIE AT HOME?
Yo-
Shi-e
Ugh
I KNEW IT.
EH?
CALLED OUT MY NAME WHEN HE WAS DELIRIOUS?
THAT STUBBORN OLD MAN..
Kya
REALLY?
That old man!
ha ha ha ha ha ha
ACHOO





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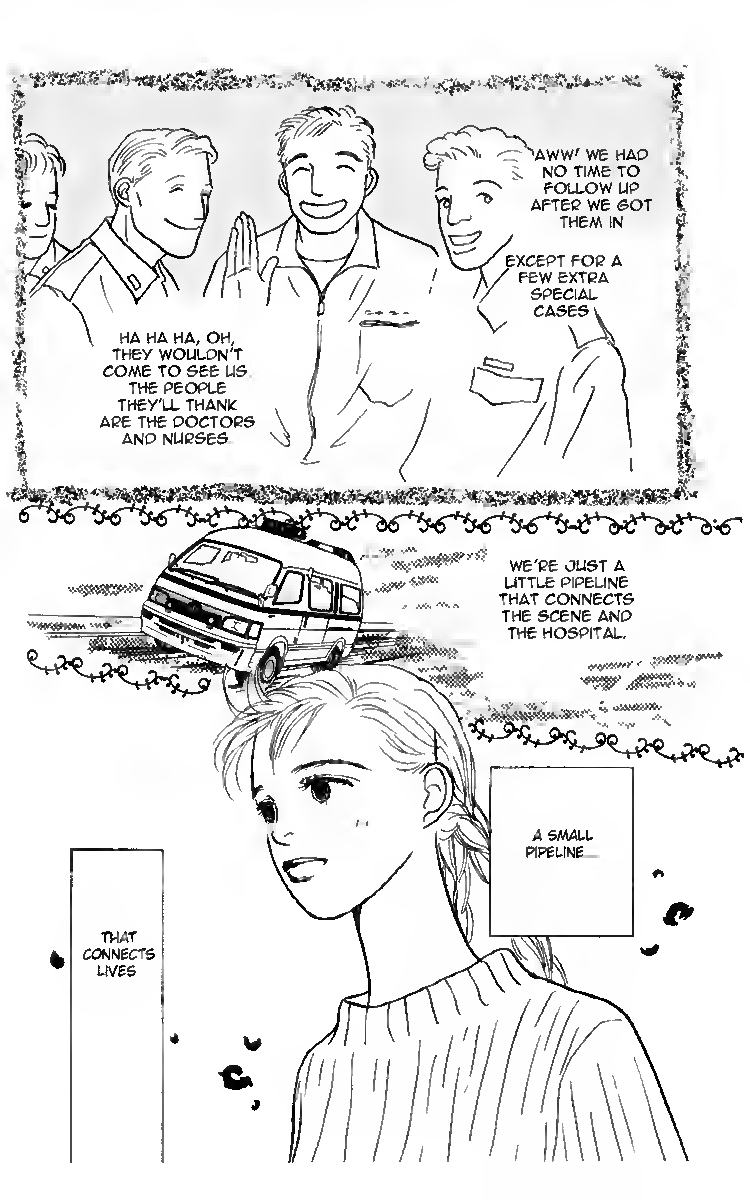
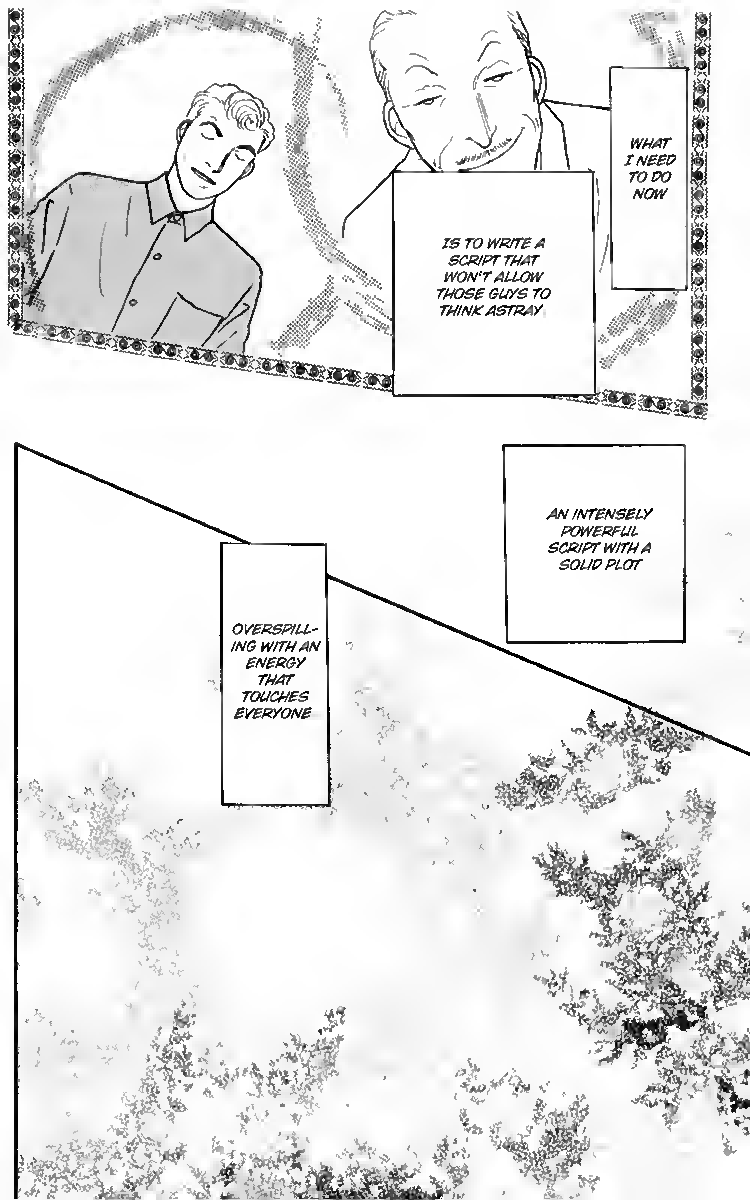
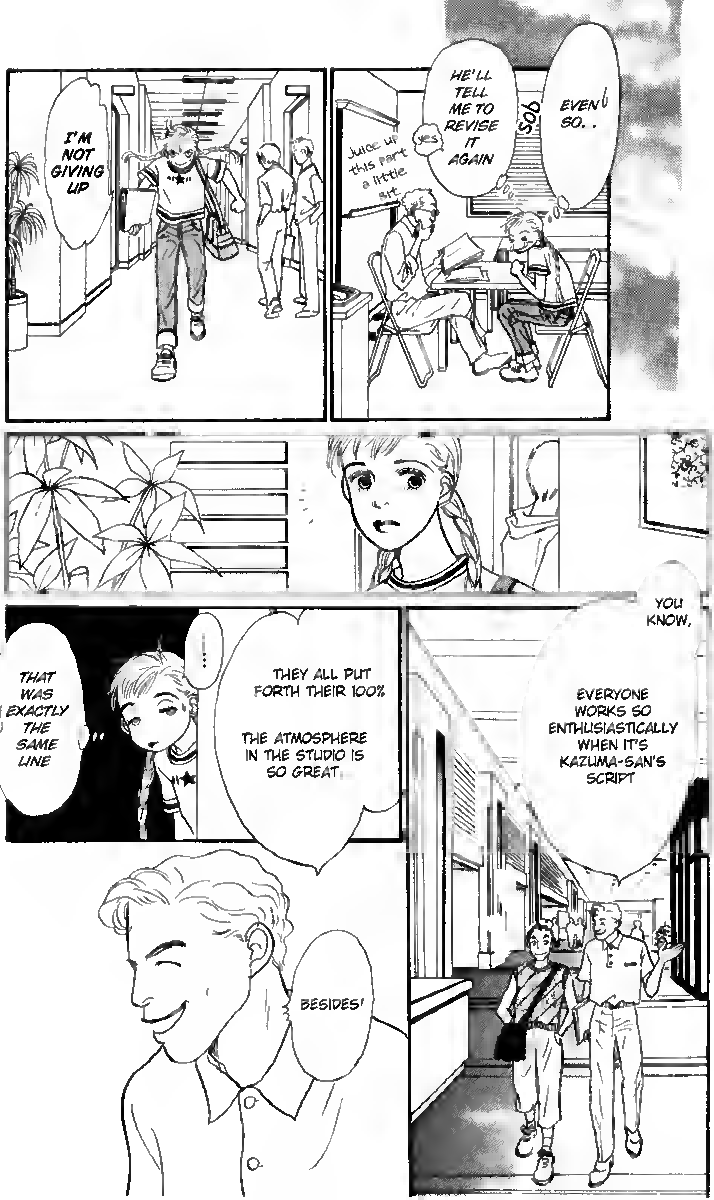
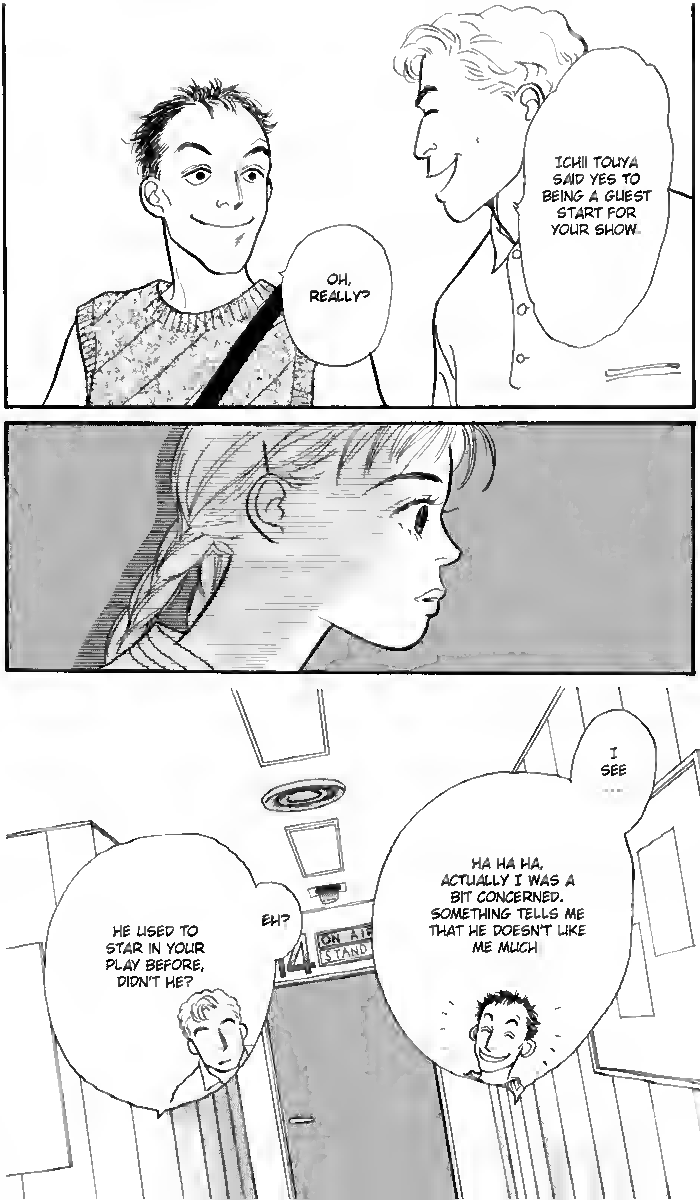

HA HA HA, OH, THEY WOULDN'T COME TO SEE US. THE PEOPLE THEY'LL THANK ARE THE DOCTORS AND NURSES.
AWW! WE HAD NO TIME TO FOLLOW UP AFTER WE GOT THEM IN
EXCEPT FOR A FEW EXTRA SPECIAL CASES.
WE'RE JUST A LITTLE PIPELINE THAT CONNECTS THE SCENE AND THE HOSPITAL.
A SMALL PIPELINE...
THAT CONNECTS LIVES

UNFAIR FAVORING
OR COMEDIC RELIEF
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO PUT THE BLAME ON THOSE.
GRANNY,
I'VE MADE A MISTAKE.
THE THINGS I WROTE.
THERE WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING MISSING.


WHAT I NEED TO DO NOW
IS TO WRITE A SCRIPT THAT WON'T ALLOW THOSE GUYS TO THINK ASTRAY
AN INTENSELY POWERFUL SCRIPT WITH A SOLID PLOT
OVERSPILL-ING WITH AN ENERGY THAT TOUCHES EVERYONE


I'M NOT GIVING UP
Juice up this part a little bit
YES!
HE'LL TELL ME TO REVISE IT AGAIN
SOb
EVEN SO. .
YOU KNOW,
EVERYONE WORKS SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY WHEN IT'S KAZUMA-SAN'S SCRIPT
THEY ALL PUT FORTH THEIR 100%
THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE STUDIO IS SO GREAT.
THAT WAS EXACTLY THE SAME LINE
BESIDES!


ICHII TOUYA SAID YES TO BEING A GUEST START FOR YOUR SHOW.
OH, REALLY?
I SEE ....
HA HA HA. ACTUALLY I WAS A BIT CONCERNED. SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT HE DOESN'T LIKE ME MUCH
EH?
HE USED TO STAR IN YOUR PLAY BEFORE, DIDN'T HE?
14
ON AIR
STAND

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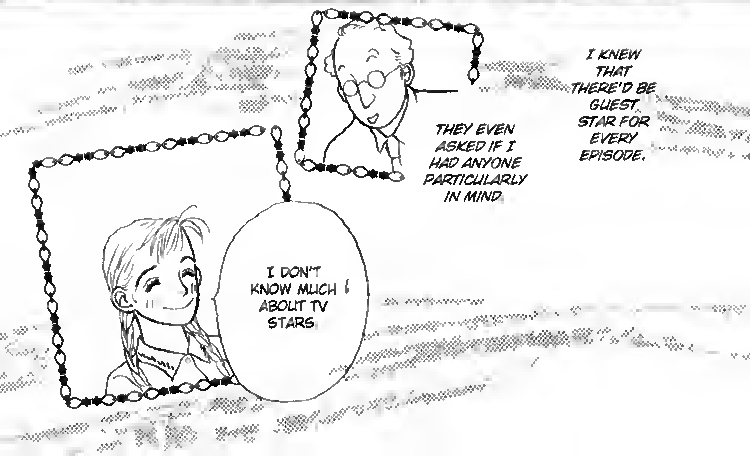
YOU GAVE THE OK MORE EASILY THAN I HAD EXPECTED.
WHY THE SURPRISE?
IT'S THE MEGA-HIT DRAMA RIGHT NOW. EVERYONE WANTS TO DIP IN.
TOUYA-SAN WILL BE A GUEST STAR IN 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS'.
EH?
THAT'S TRUE EVEN THOUGH IT IS KAZUMA RIN, OH, YOU KNOW, THE GUY YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT WHEN YOU SWORE "I'LL NEVER BE IN HIS SHOW EVER AGAIN".
You've grown up
stops short
KAZUMA?

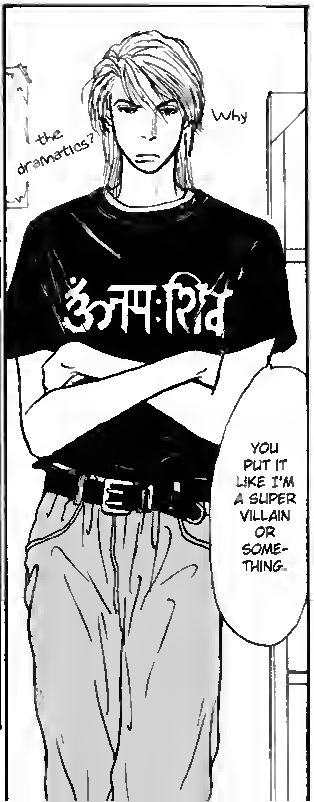
!
YEAH.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO INVITED YOU TO STAR IN HIS EPISODE.
dumb...struck

TH...
THIS IS BAD...


I KNEW THAT THERE'D BE GUEST STAR FOR EVERY EPISODE.
THEY EVEN ASKED IF I HAD ANYONE PARTICULARLY IN MIND.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT TV STARS.

ICHI! TOUYA ...
I SHOULD HAVE SAID IT!
THIS IS BAD!

明日の王様
ASHITA NO OUSAMA
UNIT 33



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HEY!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
heartless man
cut it out
BUT ...
WHERE'S SHE?
AT THE TV STATION. SHE'S ALWAYS GETTING CALLED OVER THERE LATELY.
PROBABLY BECAUSE THE RATINGS ARE SLOWING DOWN
I HEARD ABOUT THE INCIDENT TOO. IS IT TRUE THAT YUU-CHAN OFFENDED A BIG NAME STAR?
SEEMS SO
.....
.....
YOU MESS WITH A STAR ONCE, AND YOU MIGHT JUST FIND IT HARD TO ASK HIM TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU AGAIN.

Opens door
AH
TOUYA -SAN.
Hi
YUU-CHAN! CHEW HIM OUT. THIS KIND OF A TRAITOR, YOU GOTTA GET HIM GOOD!!
TRAITOR?
COME OUT WITH ME FOR A SECOND
Yuu-chan, don't go easy on him.
You should cut all ties with him
ふぁみ:り

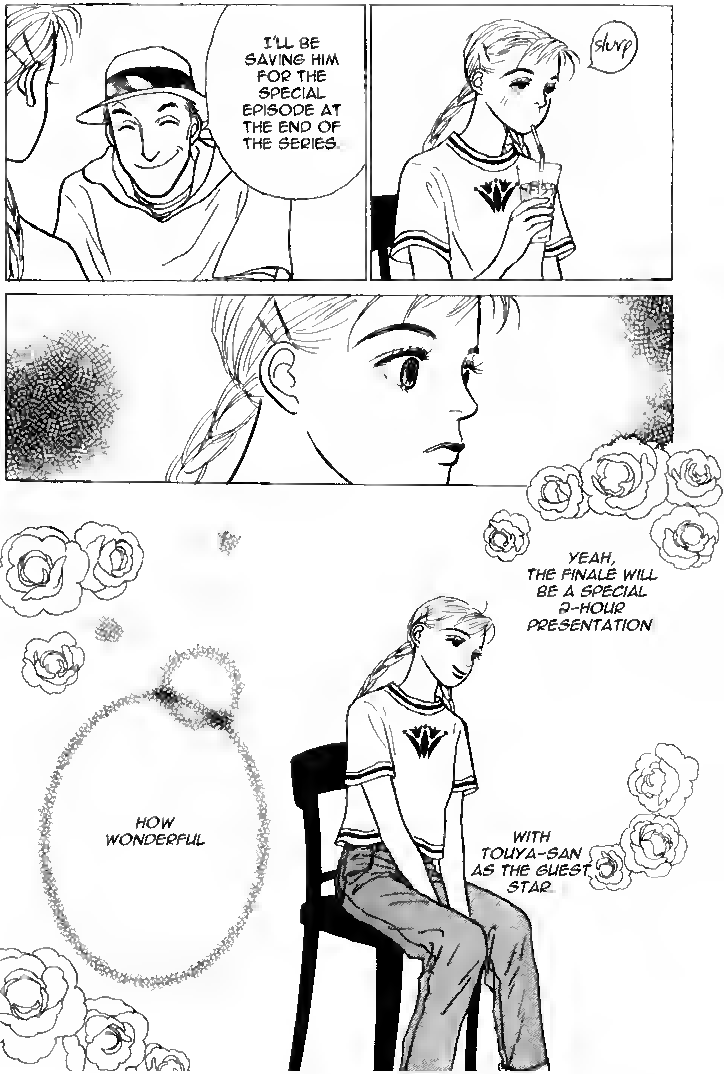
WHEN I HEARD THAT I GOT AN INVITATION TO BE A GUEST STAR ON 'CHAOS ON THE ROADS', I PRESUMED THAT IT WAS DEFINITELY FROM YOU
WHAT'S SO SURPRISING ABOUT THAT?
I TOTALLY BELIEVED SO
YEAH!
FROM ME?
YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR SAYING YES WITHOUT CONFIRMING,
RIGHT?
RIGHT?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT I MISUNDER-STOOD,
HAVE TO BE
WHY DO YOU
TOUYA-SAN
THIS ANGRY?
UH
UHHM

THE ANGRY ONE SHOULD BE YOU.
SINCE I WILL STAR IN KAZUMA-SAN'S EPISODE.
I'M NOT ANGRY AT ALL. JUST A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED.
WELL, I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED TO HAVE TOUYA-SAN AS A GUEST STAR ON MY SHOW AT ALL.
Maybe some other time.
Never?
At all?!
What the hell was that?
So I was nervously fretting like a lunatic for nothing?

DO YOU STILL HAVE TO SEND YOUR SCRIPTS BACK AND FORTH FOR REVISION LIKE YOU USED TO?
I HARDLY HAVE TO EDIT ANYTHING NOW.
THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT SCRIPTS IN THE MEETINGS ANYMORE, ONLY THE RATING, AND THE STARS.
silent

I COULDN'T POSSIBLY DO THAT.
KAZUMA WOULD HAVE DONE THAT IN A HEART BEAT.
absolutely
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THOSE MEETINGS EVERY TIME. JUST LEAVE THE SCRIPT THERE AND GO HOME.
OH,
SPEAKING ABOUT KAZUMA-SAN, I RAN INTO HIM A FEW DAYS AGO
Sighhhh
HO
SIGHING LIKE AN OLD LADY

Yo!
AH
HA HA HA
IT CAN'T BE HELPED THEN
THE RATINGS FOR YOUR EPISODES ARE FALLING CONSIDERABLY LATELY PEOPLE MUST BE GETTING BORED
BUT KAZUMA-SAN'S ARE STILL HOLDING STRONG AS USUAL
You're so straight-forward
PLUS
I'VE GOT ICHII TOUYA TO BE MY GUEST STAR.


I'LL BE SAVING HIM FOR THE SPECIAL EPISODE AT THE END OF THE SERIES.
slurp
YEAH, THE FINALE WILL BE A SPECIAL 2-HOUR PRESENTATION
WITH TOUYA-SAN AS THE GUEST STAR
HOW WONDERFUL

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shake
shake
OF COURSE THEY DID KAZUMA-SAN IS A FAMOUS PROFESSIONAL
THE SPECIAL 2-HOUR FINALE FOR THE FALL SEASON
SORRY THAT THEY CHOSE ME TO DO
OOPS
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY THAT!
AH
IF YOU'RE NOT AT LEAST ANNOYED, HOW COULD I, WITH UPPER HAND REJOICE?

beams
TERR-IFIC
I AM... A LITTLE BIT
I TOTALLY FORGOT THAT...
RIGHT WHEN WE FIRST STARTED, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DUEL BETWEEN ME AND KAZUMA-SAN
THIS GUY IS LIKE A KID...
BUT THAT'S NOT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM...

braces herself
AND MAKE EDITS IN COUNTLESS MEETINGS.
TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SCRIPT, I HAVE TO PUT IN EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.
AND AT THE END, I GET HATED BY BOTH THE ACTORS AND THE DIRECTOR
EVERY TIME I'LL BE NAGGED WITH THE RATINGS
BUT...
I'VE GOT TO GET IT DONE.
I CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS
GET WHAT DONE?

THE SCRIPT, OF COURSE
SOMETHING I WRITE,
SOME-THING THAT I CAN ACCEPT.
THE SCRIPT THAT WON'T GET COMPLAINTS FROM JUST ABOUT ANYONE.
I HAVE 3 EPISODES TO PROVE THAT.
I'M NOT GOING OUT WITHOUT A GOOD FIGHT.

IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT SHOW
I'LL START WRITING IT FROM TODAY
THE SPECIAL EPISODE, THE FINALE

YUU-KUN,

I'LL MAKE TOUYA EMBARK ON A NEW ADVENTURE
I THINK

ADVEN-
TURE?
WHAT IS HE GOING TO MAKE ME DO?

HEY!
WHAT'S WRONG? CRUSHED BY KAZUMA-SAN'S DETERMINA-TION?
DIDN'T YOU JUST YOU SAY YOU WOULDN'T GIVE UP?

OH,
AMONG THOSE, THERE WAS AN OLD MAN
THE SUPER STUBBORN TYPE,
HE ALWAYS MAKES A FACE LIKE THIS.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I VISIT HIM, HE NEVER SMILES
I'M NOT LOSING MY SPIRIT
WITH A MOUNTAIN OF REFERENCE BOOKS, AND COUNTLESS CRAZY FIELD RESEARCH SESSIONS,
AND MEETING MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE...

WHEN I TOLD HIM...
STAGE PLAYS,
HUH?
WELL SPEAKING OF THAT
WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I WENT TO A THEATER WITH MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS...
YEAH... THAT'S ALL.

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FOR ONE FLICKER OF A SECOND,
I THOUGHT I SAW HIM SMILE.
BECAUSE I TOLD HIM THAT I WORKED IN A THEATER COMPANY
IT MADE HIM THINK OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS,
OF THE PLAYS HE HAD WATCHED WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
THOSE FUN TIMES ...
I'D LIKE HIM TO SMILE MORE,
TO SMILE AND SAY "AH.. IT'S SO GREAT TO WATCH A GOOD PLAY!"

YOU HAVE ALREADY.
SO MUCH THAT ANYONE WOULD BE IMPRESSED.
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO TRY HARDER.
PLEASE, WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, I CAN'T WHINE
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH A PERSON CAN CHEER FOR HERSELF
ACTUALLY, I'D LOVE FOR TOUYA-SAN TO LEND ME SOME OF YOUR POWER...

POWER
-UP.

Power up
ENOUGH?
shake
shake
.....
.....
ॐम:शिवाय
ॐम:शिवाय

GRANNY
GRANNY,
IT'S LIKE I'M WALKING IN A DREAM.

happy sigh
POWER.
NO, NO.
I'VE GOTTEN A POWER-UP. IT'LL BE OK.
shake
shake
AH
OH.
CHAOS ON THE ROADS
THE AD-LIBS KEEP ESCALATING.

IT'S GOING TO BE MY LAST EPISODE.
I'LL TRY MY BEST SO THAT I WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS
THANK YOU FOR INTRODUCING ME TO A NEW WORLD.
THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE NEW EXPERIENCES THAT THIS HAS GIVEN ME.
UHM, THANKS SO MUCH FOR STICKING WITH US UNTIL TODAY. IT'S THE LAST ONE NOW. YOU MUST BE RELIEVED TOO
WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO? KOBASHI-SAN WAS UPSET AND NOBODY CAN..
HELP IT...
flap
flap

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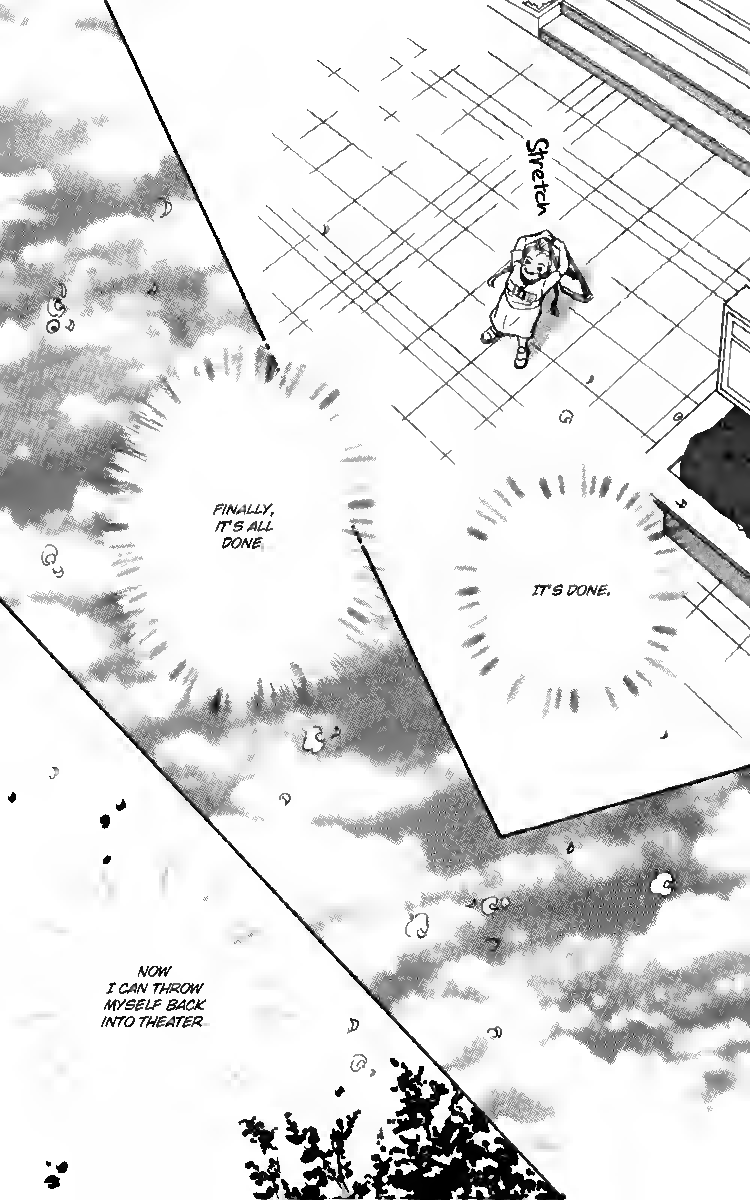
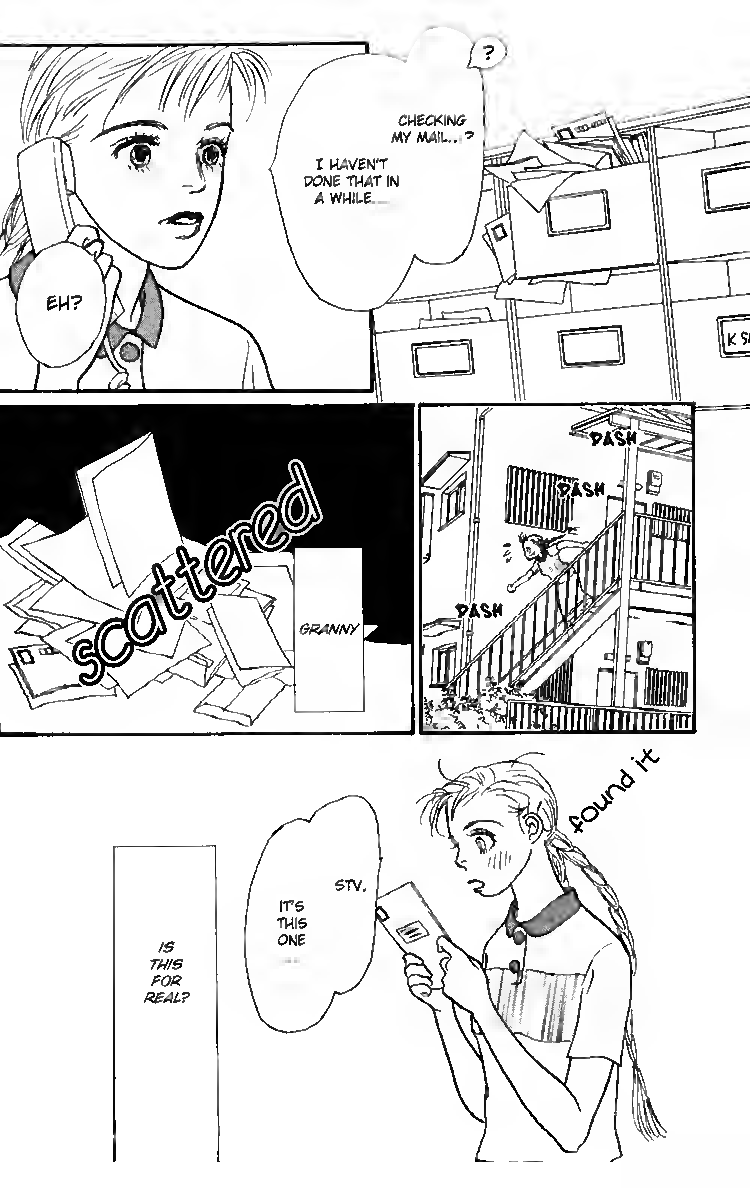
ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME GO BACK AND REVISE IT?
EEP!
Don't tell me there's going to be another last minute edit
I WAS SO SURE
THIS
YOU
NERV OUS
NERV OUS
PAT
CLACK

IF THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANY IMPACT,
THEN HE'S NOT AS GOOD OF AN ACTOR AS EVERYONE THINKS HE IS.
?


Stretch
FINALLY, IT'S ALL DONE.
IT'S DONE.
NOW I CAN THROW MYSELF BACK INTO THEATER.

I CAN GO BACK TO THE TROUPE FOR REAL NOW
BUT...
FIRST I'D BETTER GO HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP
I PULLED SO MANY ALL-NIGHTERS IN THESE PAST FEW DAYS
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
CLATTER
HE...
HELLO!
OH, CHIEF
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU CALL. STARTING TODAY, I PROMISE I'LL GO TO REHEARSAL FOR SURE
EH?
YOU HAVEN'T CHECKED YOUR MAIL, RIGHT? IT SHOULD BE DELIVERED BY NOW


EH?
I HAVEN'T DONE THAT IN A WHILE...
CHECKING MY MAIL...?
?
scattered
GRANNY
DASH
DASH
DASH
found it
IS THIS FOR REAL?
IT'S THIS ONE
STV.

THE LETTER SAID THE SCRIPT THAT I HAD SUBMITTED TO THE CONTEST WENT THROUGH TO THE LAST ROUND
AND
IT WON THE PRIZE...
FIRST PRIZE!
GREAT JOB!